



Health scheme will be well-funded, says Nadda

page 8



CBI files chargesheet against Hooda, 33 others in land case

page 9



House Republicans release secret memo on Russian investigation

page 10

India meets Australia in Under-19 World Cup final today

page 13



NEARBY

DDA to introduce uniform FAR

NEW DELHI
In a relief to traders protesting against the ongoing sealing drive in the Capital, the DDA on Friday proposed bringing uniform floor area ratio for shop-cum-residence plots and complexes on a par with residential plots.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

GROUND ZERO

The doctors in Car Nicobar

A public health project in Car Nicobar was launched to eliminate a rare occurrence of hyperendemic trachoma, an infectious condition known to cause blindness. Aided by doctors, an indigenous community battled the odds to beat an invisible adversary.

OP-ED PAGE



DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

Return of long term capital gains tax spooks markets

■ Sharpest single-day fall in 15 months

■ BSE Sensex loses 840 points, Nifty 256.30

■ Bond markets nervous ahead of RBI review



35,066.75 – a 2.34% decline in one session. The broader Nifty lost 256.30 points or 2.33% to close at 10,760.60.

The government appeared to brush off the market's sharp reaction as an adjustment to the Budget's proposal and argued that the intent behind reverting to the LTCG tax was to bring about parity in tax treatment of different asset classes and ensure that equities that have delivered good returns

must also contribute to the tax kitty.

"The market is adjusting. As the market absorbs the information there will be some effect, some volatility... but nothing serious," Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg told *The Hindu*.

Twenty-seven of the 30 Sensex stocks declined, with Reliance Industries, Maruti Suzuki, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Auto all fall-

ing over 4% on Friday. Overall, over 2,500 stocks slipped on the BSE as against only 295 gainers, which included Sensex heavyweights TCS, Hindustan Unilever and Wipro. The Budget has proposed an LTCG tax on equity instruments on all capital gains exceeding ₹1 lakh at the rate of 10%, without offering any indexation benefit that allows gains to be set off against inflation.

"Investors were disappointed with the LTCG tax coming in, over and above the securities transaction tax (STT) [paid on all stock trades]," said Anita Gandhi, wholtime director at Arianth Capital Markets.

All sectoral indices also ended in the red, with most shedding over 3% each.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

BUDGET CAUSED STOCK CRASH, SAYS CONGRESS ▶ PAGE 8

GET CRACKING ▶ EDITORIAL

Naidu upset as A.P. 'ignored' in Budget

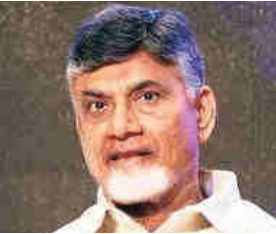
TDP MP offers to resign in protest

K. VENKATESHWARLU
VIJAYAWADA

The Telugu Desam Party has started evaluating its options, including an exit from the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance, with the Union Budget giving little to Andhra Pradesh.

After expressing disappointment with the Centre for offering "nothing in the Budget for the State," Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu chaired the party's coordination committee meeting on Friday, at which he is reported to have displayed his anger over the way the BJP had "sighted the State."

Mr. Naidu, it is learnt, recalled that the decision to support the BJP in the 2014 elections was intended to get the Centre's full support in hand-holding the fledgling State. The Congress was decimated in Andhra Pradesh after betraying the people by pushing through an "unscientific bifurca-



N. Chandrababu Naidu

tion," leaving the State impoverished, he said. He was hinting at the BJP meeting the same fate.

A senior leader said Mr. Naidu even pointed to the BJP's defeat in the Rajasthan byelections.

A formal meeting of the Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party is scheduled for Sunday.

TDP MP from Narasaraopet Rayapati Sambasiva Rao offered to resign, if Mr. Naidu directed him to do so, to protest against the Centre's injustice to the State.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

'MIX OF OLD SCHEMES' ▶ PAGE 8

DESERT DEFEAT ▶ EDITORIAL

CBI files appeal in Bofors case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After a delay of more than 12 years, the CBI on Friday filed an appeal in the Supreme Court against the quashing of charges against the accused in the ₹64 crore Bofors payoffs case, saying that "crime never dies and lapse of time is no bar to proceed against offenders, however powerful they may be."

The 69-page appeal challenges the Delhi High Court decision of May 31, 2005, to end all proceedings against the Europe-based industrialist brothers S.P. Hinduja, G.P. Hinduja, P.P. Hinduja and M/s. Kartongen Kemi Och Forvaltning AB (formerly M/s AB Bofors) in the Bofors scam, which rocked the Rajiv Gandhi government and involved the purchase of 400 155mm FH 77-B guns and ammunition from the Swedish company for ₹1473.72 crore in 1986-87.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

RAJIV TOLD SWEDISH PM TO STOP PROBE: CBI ▶ PAGE 8

Jallikattu pleas go to Constitution Bench

To decide if it is a cultural right

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday referred to a Constitution Bench to decide whether the people of Tamil Nadu can preserve jallikattu as their cultural heritage under Article 29 (1) of the Constitution, and demand its protection.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman referred to a five-judge Bench a batch of petitions filed by the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals and activists to strike down the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act of 2017 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules of 2017.

They contended that the amended laws had opened

the gates for the conduct of the popular bull-taming sport in the name of culture and tradition, despite a 2014 ban by the Supreme Court.

It is the first time the court is considering granting constitutional protection to jallikattu as a collective cultural right under Article 29 (1), a fundamental right guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution to protect the educational and cultural rights of citizens.

"It has never been looked into whether a State can claim constitutional protection under Article 29 (1) for what it thinks is a cultural right," Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra had orally observed when reserving the case for final judgment at the previous hearing.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Temporary pitch



Game on: Boys playing cricket outside the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar on Friday. The authorities imposed restrictions in Srinagar and Shopian to prevent a march by separatists to condemn the killing of five civilians in recent days

Nasheed promises to contest elections again

Maldives SC overturns his conviction

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Mohamed Nasheed, the exiled former President of the Maldives, said on Friday that he hoped to contest the presidential polls this year, following a surprise Supreme Court ruling that ordered his immediate release. "Now that all my civil and political rights have been restored, I will be able to contest elections," he told *The Hindu* in Colombo.

The Maldives witnessed turmoil on Friday, after the court late on Thursday nullified the convictions of Mr. Nasheed and eight others, terming their trials "questionable and politically motivated." Mr. Nasheed was barred from contesting any election after his controversial 2015 conviction on a terrorism charge.



Former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed

The development, in the wake of growing allegations of corruption and authoritarianism against President Abdulla Yameen, sparked violent clashes in Male between the police and dissidents. While Opposition supporters demanded immediate implementation of the ruling, the police used force to disperse the crowd, local sources said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

CBI yet to take a call on appeal against Talwars

They were released in October last year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is yet to decide whether it should file an appeal against the Allahabad High Court's judgment acquitting Rajesh and Nupur Talwar in the Aarushi-Hemraj murder case last year.

The Talwars were released from jail in October 2017 after the High Court acquitted them.



Rajesh and Nupur Talwar

Three-month period

In murder cases, probe agencies are required to appeal against acquittals within three months of such an order.

The CBI has failed to do so in the Aarushi-Hemraj case.

"The appeal has not been filed yet. However, the investigating team may approach the court seeking that the delay be condoned, as and when it decides to file the appeal," a CBI official said.

Aarushi was found murdered at her Noida house on May 16, 2008. A day later, the body of domestic help

Hemraj was found on the terrace.

The case was initially investigated by the Noida police, which arrested Dr. Talwar for his involvement. The case was then transferred to the CBI that initially zeroed in on three helps. The agency then investigated the alleged involvement of Dr. Talwar and his wife. However, it filed a closure report on the grounds of insufficient prosecutable evidence.

The Special Court refused to accept the closure report and converted it into a chargesheet against the Talwars.



BYJU'S
The Learning App

PRELIMS TEST SERIES
2018 AT Rs. 3500/-

Starts February 07th

DATE	SUBJECT	TOPIC
07 th Feb 2018	Self-Assessment Test - 1	GS+CSAT
10 th Feb 2018	CSAT-3	Reading Comprehension + Decision Making
14 th Feb 2018	GS-1	Indian Constitution + Governance + Contemporary Political Development
17 th Feb 2018	GS-8	Socio Economic Development + Public Policy + Rights Issues + Welfare Schemes
21 st Feb 2018	GS-2	Physical Geography + Indian Geography + Related Current Issues
24 th Feb 2018	GS-9	Ancient + Medieval History + Art & Culture of India
28 th Feb 2018	GS-3	Modern India + Important Institutions of National Importance etc.
03 rd Mar 2018	GS-10	Current Affairs-Part II [Dec 17-Feb 18] + India Year Book Part 1 [First 15 Chapters]
07 th Mar 2018	CSAT-1	Quantitative Aptitude + General Mental Ability

Note: Management reserves the right to reschedule or alter the course planner.

For the complete schedule visit our office:
Apsara Arcade, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station,
Gate #7, New Delhi



Call/ WhatsApp
9873643487



UNIQUE
SHIKSHA

India's top-ranked*
Civil Services
Preparations* institute

*as recognised by
Indian Education Congress
Awards-2016 & 17

Presents two ways to realise your IAS aspirations....



IAS FOUNDATION
PROGRAMME

Join it. Follow the footsteps of
over 150 successful IAS aspirants

REGULAR, WEEKEND & GRADUATION
PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE

Batches start on
10 Feb., '18

For Merit Scholarships visit: www.uniqueshiksha.com/talenthunt

FREE UNIQUE IAS SEMINAR
4th Feb. (Sun.), Tomorrow, 2:00 PM onwards • F24 Preet Vihar (Opp. Pillar 95)

8287 360 360 www.uniqueshiksha.com info@uniqueshiksha.in /UniqueShiksha

Unique Centres: Pusa Road | GTB Nagar | Preet Vihar | Raj Nagar (GHZ) | Sec. 14 (GGN)

2 NORTH

DELHI ☀️ Timings			
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 03			
☀️ RISE	07:08	🌇 SET	18:02
🌙 RISE	21:09	🌅 SET	09:09
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 04			
☀️ RISE	07:08	🌇 SET	18:03
🌙 RISE	22:09	🌅 SET	09:48
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 05			
☀️ RISE	07:07	🌇 SET	18:04
🌙 RISE	23:07	🌅 SET	10:25

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	25	10
Safdarjang	25	10
Palam	26	11

Delhi Palam Today
26°C A nippy morning is expected. A bright sky is likely with a dank day. Evening and night will be cold.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
25°C A sunny sky is expected to persist with a nippy morning and dampish afternoon. Night will be cold.

© Copyright SkyMet Weather 2018
All rights reserved.

IN BRIEF



Degree college for Jawali in Kangra district

DHARAMSHALA
Addressing a public meeting in Himachal's Kangra district, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday said a degree college would be opened in Jawali town from the next academic session. PTI

Four of a family receive burn injuries

BEGUSARAI
Four persons of a family, received burn injuries after a fire broke out in their house in Bihar's Begusarai district, the police said on Friday. The fire broke out due to an LPG cylinder leak. The family put pieces of wood in a pot and lit it inside a room and the room caught fire, the police said. The victims are Ruso Devi, her daughter Rekha Kumari, her grandson Nitish Kumar and grand-daughter Priyanka, police said. PTI

Three held for killing man in Punjab

NAWANSHAH
Three migratory labourers residing in Phagwara were arrested on Friday for strangulating 45-year-old Ram Sunder, the police said. The police nabbed Raj Kumar, Lakshman Sharma and Bablu Gupta for the killing. PTI

U.P. declares war on cheats

Govt. enlists STF, local intelligence help to ensure 'copying-free' Board exams

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW**

The Uttar Pradesh government will this year take help from the Special Task Force and local intelligence agencies to keep an eye on the 'education mafia' in a bid to clamp down on cheating in the State Board examinations.

The objective is "copying-free examinations" and preventing the education mafia from doing mischief, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said.

"The police are on the job and those taking contracts for ensuring copying in examinations centres will land in jail," he said.

The U.P. Board examination for Classes X and XII starts on February 6 and will continue till March 12. A total of 66,37,018 students have



No unfair means will be tolerated: Dinesh Sharma • PTI

registered to appear in this year's exam – 36,55,691 for Class X and 29,81,327 for Class XII.

Last year, 1,862 students were caught cheating; the overall pass percentage for Class X was recorded at 81.18 and 82.62 for Class XII.

Mr. Sharma said the government has taken the help

of the STF and local intelligence agents in doing away with education centres infamous for mass cheating. Examinations centres have come down from over 12,000 to 8,500.

It has also been ensured that the centres have enough space to accommodate students and adequate facilities. "Copying mafias have been identified. Local education officers have also been asked to take help of help of local intelligence during examinations to keep an eye on their activities," Mr. Sharma said.

The government has made it mandatory for examination centres to have CCTV cameras, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of the Secondary Education Department, said the

government has made its stand clear – no unfair means would be tolerated and anyone found copying or promoting it would be dealt with strictly.

"We have studied all the possible ways and means of unfair means during the examinations. Those appearing in an exam impersonating someone else or involved in changing answer sheets before they reach evaluation centres will not be able to do so. Effective measures have been taken," Mr. Sharma said.

The measures to prevent cheating include frisking students before they enter the examination halls, dividing centres in sectors, appointing administrative officers as sector magistrates and issuing prohibitory orders within 100 metres of the centre.

Chouhan likely to expand, reshuffle M.P. Cabinet today

Model code of conduct is in force, says Congress

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL**

Ahead of the Assembly elections, which are due later this year, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is likely to reshuffle and expand his Cabinet on Saturday, a senior official said here.

A Raj Bhavan official confirmed that preparations for oath-taking ceremony were under way. Names of the new Ministers are not yet disclosed, sources said.

The Chouhan-led government, in its third term, has 20 Cabinet Ministers, including the CM and nine Ministers of State since December 2013.

The State can have a maximum of 35 Ministers.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan • FILE PHOTO A.M. FARUQUI

The State Congress, meanwhile, has submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission and written a letter to the Governor saying that the BJP government cannot carry out a Cabinet expansion as the model

code of conduct is in force ahead of the February 24 Assembly by-polls in Mungaoli and Kolaras.

In the memorandum to the EC, State Congress president Arun Yadav has demanded that the proposed Cabinet expansion be postponed till February 28.

In the letter to the Governor, Mr. Yadav said, "This expansion or reshuffle would be against the Constitutional traditions. The proposed expansion, if any, is directly or indirectly a way to influence the electorate."

Chief Electoral Officer of Madhya Pradesh Salina Singh said she has forwarded the memorandum to the Election Commission of India.

Six killed in separate accidents in Bihar

Victims include five women, a child

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA**

Six persons -- five women and a child -- were killed and several others injured in two separate accidents in Bihar on Friday, officials said. The accidents took place in Siwan and Begusarai districts, they said.

In the first accident, four persons, including three women and a child, were killed after they fell off a railway bridge, an official said. They were crossing the bridge over Daha river on foot to reach the Siwan Kutchery railway station, Siwan District Magistrate Mahendra Kumar said.

The deceased were residents of Kuchaykot police station in the neighbouring district of Gopalganj and were on their way to the railway station to catch a train back home, he said. Apparently, they panicked when they saw the Siwan-Gorakhpur passenger train approaching and jumped to save their lives, he said.

The Chief Public Rela-

tions Officer of North Eastern Railway, Sanjay Yadav said, "The driver of the train gave a message upon reaching the next station confirming that they were not run over".

The DM said that another seriously injured person was referred to the PMCH hospital in Patna.

The deceased were identified as Khushboo Nishan, Jhuni Khatoun, Saraswati Devi and Munna (the child). The injured was identified as Aslam Ansari, the DM added.

In the other accident, a man and a woman, both in their 40s, were killed and six persons were injured, when a three-wheeler collided head-on with a truck in Begusarai district, SHO Ram Swarath Paswan said. The mishap occurred under the jurisdiction of Teghra police station, he said.

The victim has been identified as Suresh Sah, of Jagdar village, the SHO said. The woman has not been identified till now.

IPS officer's Ram Mandir pledge stokes controversy

U.P. Director-General Home Guards claims he was 'misinterpreted'

**OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW**

A senior IPS officer in Uttar Pradesh on Friday stoked a controversy after a video clip of him taking pledge for the early construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya went viral on social media.

In the 21-second clip, Surya Kumar Shukla, along with half a dozen other people, is seen taking a vow to build the temple. "We Ram bhakts, as part of this programme, take the pledge that a grand Ram Mandir be constructed at the earliest... Jai Sri Ram," the video showed them saying with one arm raised.

A 1982-batch IPS, Mr. Shukla is currently Director-General, Home Guards, and the second senior-most IPS in the State, according to the U.P. Police website.

The controversial incident took place during a private function organised in a room of the Public Admi-

nistration department of Lucknow University on January 28 by the Akhil Bharatiya Samagra Vichar Manch, which claims to be a social organisation.

Though it was a closed-door affair, the title of the seminar indicated that it was held to chalk out a solution to the Ayodhya dispute: Ram Mandir Nirman Samasya Evam Samadhan.

Apart from Mr. Shukla, some Hindutva activists and members of the Muslim wing of the RSS were also present on stage. So was Advocate Hari Shankar Jain, who was in 2014 felicitated by Amit Shah, then U.P. in-charge of BJP, for taking on the Samajwadi Party government for its move to withdraw terror cases. Mr. Jain, a counsel for the Hindu Mahasabha in the Ayodhya dispute, also helps Hindus fight legal cases through his organisation, Hindu Front for Justice.

While the government has

sought an explanation from Mr. Shukla, he clarified that his presence at the event was being misinterpreted and the short clip was selectively made to go viral without considering what he said prior to it.

"As a responsible officer, we cannot say or do anything like this. It is being shown as though we are going for a forcible construction of a mandir. This is misinterpretation," Mr. Shukla told reporters.

Talking about the pledge, Mr. Shukla said the vow was being taken to create an atmosphere of communal harmony and not for the construction of the Ram Mandir.

He said he attended the seminar as it was being held for an intellectual discussion on how to resolve the "Ram Mandir issue peacefully".

"I had said [at the event] that this issue is *sub judice* in the Supreme Court, so it would not be proper for me

to give a speech on it or present detailed views. So I did not give any speech," Mr. Shukla said.

Retired IPS officer S.R. Darapuri told *The Hindu* that Mr. Shukla's act was a "direct violation of the IPS code of conduct" and also punishable as he had participated in a political event and made his communal biases known.

Congress spokesperson Akhilesh Pratap Singh said both officials and criminals were being influenced by the BJP under the rule of Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath. "An alliance has been formed between the three. And these BJP people, along with the criminals and officials, think themselves above the law," Mr. Singh said.

The IPS Association has condemned the incident saying that it is "against the ethos of neutrality, fairness and uprightness that Indian Police Service stands for".

Process to appoint BHU V-C not yet over: HRD Ministry

Varsity Registrar holding the additional charge

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

The process to appoint a new Vice-Chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has not yet been completed, the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development said on Friday.

Earlier in the day, a source in the BHU had claimed that B.A. Chopade, the current Vice-Chancellor of the Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in Aurangabad, has been appointed to the post which has been lying vacant since last year.

"The process of appointment of the BHU V-C is still under way. The selection panel ap-

pointed for the purpose will short-list the names which will be communicated to the President, the Visitor to the university," a spokesperson of the Ministry said.

The post has been lying vacant since October last year when Girish Chandra Tripathi, who was the Vice-Chancellor, went on indefinite leave two months before his tenure was to end following a spate of protests at the university triggered by an incident of alleged eve-teasing.

The BHU is among the 43 central universities in the country and the appointment of its V-C has to be cleared by

the President.

Registrar of the university Neeraj Tripathi has been holding additional charge of the V-C's post since then.

Mr. Tripathi had proceeded on leave after indications that the central government was upset with him for the manner in which he had handled the incident as well as subsequent protests by women students.

The trouble started when a number of students, including women, and two journalists were injured in a baton-charge by the police after a protest against the alleged eve-teasing incident turned violent.

Telangana government to build guest house in Ajmer

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR**

The Telangana government proposes to build a *rubaat* (guest house) in the Ajmer town of Rajasthan for the pilgrims visiting the historic 13th century dargah of Sufi mystic Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.

The southern State is looking for five acres near Ajmer to construct the building.

Telangana Minorities Commission chairman Mohammed Qamarud-

din visited Ajmer for the purpose after stopping over in Jaipur on Thursday to explore the scope for allotment of land. Mr. Qamaruddin handed over a letter from Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu to the revenue officers here while seeking their help.

Mr. Qamaruddin, who also met Rajasthan State Minorities Commission chairman Jasbir Singh, said the Telangana government was willing to spend ₹5

crore on the construction of the *rubaat* and providing amenities to the pilgrims. A large number of pilgrims from Telangana come to Ajmer during the annual Urs at the dargah.

Mr. Qamaruddin said Mr. Rao had visited the dargah during the agitation for Telangana's formation and had vowed to make permanent arrangement for stay and other facilities to pilgrims if the new State was carved out of Andhra Pradesh.

18-month-old boy killed by stray dogs

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL**

An 18-month-old boy was attacked and killed by stray dogs in Old Bhopal outside his house, police said on Friday.

The incident occurred on Thursday under the Gautam Nagar police station area when Shaikh Raza was outside his house, they said.

"A pack of five to six stray dogs attacked and dragged the boy for about 50 feet from his house before the neighbours chased them away," said Gautam Nagar PS in-charge Mukhtar Qureshi.

His family members were inside the house when the incident occurred. They took the badly injured toddler to Hamidia Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, he said.

"We have registered a case and investigating further. We are waiting for the post-mortem report. The child's family members were provided an immediate help of ₹10,000 by the district administration," Mr. Qureshi said.

Following the incident, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) decided to start a campaign to deal with the stray dog menace. "This is sad. I have called a meeting of the BMC health officers. We would soon start a drive to catch stray dogs," Mayor Alok Sharma said.

2 Nepalese men beaten to death

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA**

Two Nepalese nationals were beaten to death by unidentified assailants and the bodies dumped into a ditch at Sheel village in Shoghi, the police said on Friday.

Navin (32), a resident of Ponta Sahib, and Chandra Prakash (19), a resident of Renuka, succumbed to death due to multiple head injuries. Their blood-soaked bodies were recovered from the ditch after some locals informed the police.

The deceased were brothers-in-law and worked as driver and conductor of a public transport vehicle which has also been recovered, Shimla SP Ompati Jamwal said.

A police team headed by Additional SP Parveer Thakur reached the spot and extricated the bodies, examined the crime spot and collected forensic and other evidence.

No arrest has been made so far, he said. Police suspect that it was a pre-planned murder and were investigating all aspects of the case.

‘Without us, Congress cannot function in Delhi’

Combative Mamata reacts to walkout by Cong., CPI(M) MLAs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday called the State’s Congress leaders “pygmies” and reminded them that without the Trinamool Congress, the party cannot function in Delhi.

She also slammed the Congress for hobnobbing with the CPI(M) to oppose her government.

“The Congress and the CPI(M) are one. They are made for each other. It is nothing new. I know how it had extended support to CPI (M),” she said in the Assembly while replying to a debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor’s address to the House.

“Without us, Congress cannot function in Delhi. Let the State Congress leaders ask their party leaders in Delhi,” she said.



Mamata Banerjee

Congress members staged a walkout in the State Assembly along with the CPI (M) when Ms. Banerjee rose to speak.

The Trinamool Congress chief lambasted the Congress, the Left and the BJP for overlooking the development ushered in the State by her government and said that they should do “constructive criticism”.

“I have to manage with limited funds. The Centre can print notes. But we have no such option. We are facing the legacy of the CPI(M), which had pushed the State into shouldering a huge debt burden,” she said.

The erstwhile CPI(M)-led Left Front government never focussed on the development of the State, she claimed, adding the Opposition should engage in constructive criticism, which is welcome.

“The Congress leaders here are pygmies,” she said, adding that former Congress president Sonia Gandhi had congratulated her on Thursday after her party’s victory in the Uluberia Lok Sabha and Noapara Assembly by-elections in West Bengal. “I too congratulated her for the Congress’s victory in the Alwar and Ajmer Lok Sabha and Mandalgarh Assembly by-elections in Rajasthan.”

Didn’t budget for us



People’s anger: Anganwadi workers staging a protest rally against the Union Budget in Bhubaneswar. ■BISWARANJAN ROUT

BJP candidate files papers for Bijepur bypoll

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Former Biju Janata Dal legislator Ashok Kumar Panigrahi, who joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in October last year, filed his nomination papers on Friday for the Bijepur bypoll scheduled for February 24.

The Bijepur Assembly seat in Bargarh district had fallen vacant in August last year following the death of Congress legislator Subal Sahu.

Mr. Panigrahi reached the office of the Sub-Collector at Padampur in a procession and filed his nomination

papers in the presence of BJP State president Basanta Kumar Panda and other senior leaders. Mr. Panigrahi, who was elected to the State Assembly in 2000, was suspended from the BJD after he contested the polls as an independent candidate for the seat in 2014. The Con-

gress had bagged the seat in the 2004, 2009 and 2014 elections.

Ritarani Sahu, widow of former Congress leader Subal Sahu who joined the BJD in September last year, will file her nomination papers as the ruling party’s nominee on February 5.

BJP releases first list of 45 candidates for Meghalaya

State party chief’s sister resigns, joins NPP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHILLONG

Former Congress Minister A. L. Hek and ex-State president of NCP Sanbor Shullai, who crossed over recently, were among 45 candidates named by the BJP on Friday for the Meghalaya Assembly polls.

Soon after the release of the first list, State BJP president Shibun Lyngdoh’s sister Violet Lyngdoh walked out of the party along with her supporters and joined the

National People’s Party (NPP), saying she was denied a ticket which was assured to her.

The BJP, which is hoping to expand its footprint in the Northeast, is contesting all the 60 Assembly seats in the February 27 elections. The NPP, an ally of the BJP at the Centre and in Manipur, is contesting the polls separately.

Ms. Violet, who is also an elected member of the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council

from Khliehriat in East Jaintia Hills, joined the NPP along with the district president of the BJP, Balios Swer, and leaders from 42 booth committees in the district.

She is likely to be given ticket from Khliehriat.

“I have joined the NPP after I was denied the BJP ticket which was assured to me,” she told reporters.

The State BJP president was not available for comments.

Join T.I.M.E. for
GATE | ESE | PSUs
• ECE • EEE • ME • CSE • IN • CE

TIME Edge

- 90%+ T.I.M.E. has successfully prepared for the GATE/ESE
- Bi-Weekly Doubt Classes & Individual Doubt Sessions
- Daily Mock Tests (Paper 1 & 2) + Workshops
- Video Lectures + Test Series + Faculty from IITs/IISc
- Comprehensive Study Material
- Great Rank Top High Results in Study Status

Our GATE 2017 Results

1	1	3
3	6	19

Enroll Today!

TIME

No. 30/31 B, Ground Floor, Near H.P.O. W.M. Kalkand, Delhi. Ph: 4368512, 4368513, 4368514

Man held with fake notes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BARIPADA (ODISHA)

The police on Friday arrested a man, suspected to be part of a counterfeit currency racket, from the Basta Police station limit in Balasore district and seized 100 fake notes of face value of ₹2,000 each from his possession.

The arrest was made based on an investigation and leads from two students, who were earlier caught circulating fake notes in the market here, on Wednesday.

BLAZERS
SUITS & JACKETS
SALE

upto **60% off**

Formal • Casual • Party Collection
Men & Women wear
By Economy Sales: 23539218

raymond **PARK AVENUE** **ARROW** *Louis Philippe*

- PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- VIKAS MARG, E-366, Nirman Vihar, Opp. V3S Mall, Adj. Lagan Banquet
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula’s Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

In quake-prone Guwahati, deal inked for 65-storey twin towers

Twin trade centre is part of Assam government’s bid to become India-ASEAN trade hub

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The Assam government on Friday inked a deal with National Building Construction Corporation for setting up a 65-storey twin tower trade centre in earthquake-prone Guwahati.

The agreement for building the trade centre was made ahead of the two-day Global Investors’ Summit - dubbed Advantage Assam - that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate on Saturday.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the twin

tower with in-house arrangement will boost business in the State, which aspires to be a hub of trade between India and the bloc of South-east Asian nations in pursuance of Delhi’s Act East Policy.

Work from July

NBCC officials said work on the building will commence in July this year using green technology as well as reflecting the rich natural heritage and culture of Assam.

“The project has a completion period of 60 months,” NBCC’s chairman-



A model of the twin towers. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cum-managing director Anup Kumar Mittal said. The 65-storey project has

been receiving mixed reactions since Assam falls in Zone 5, a high-risk earthquake category.

Tallest structure

The tallest existing structure in Guwahati has G+15 floors though the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority had in 2013 granted environmental clearance to a 20-storey apartment complex. G in construction parlance is ‘ground’.

Of late, though, the GMDA has not been permitting construction of buildings taller than G+5 floors. “But this has

more to do with road width and available open space around built-up area than earthquakes,” a senior GMDA officer said, declining to be quoted.

Former Congress minister Pradyut Bordoloi, who handled trade and commerce, chose not to criticise the project.

“There is technology to build skyscrapers in tremor zones but the trade centre will serve no purpose if it is not set up as a special purpose vehicle catering to the Northeast and neighbouring countries,” he said.

Dalai Lama cancels Sikkim visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GANGTOK

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama’s proposed visit to Sikkim next month stands cancelled on his doctors’ advice to cut down on his travels in view of his advancing age.

Tenzin Takhla, Secretary at the office of the Dalai Lama, in a mail

to Sikkim’s Ecclesiastical Affairs Secretary Samten Dolma, on Thursday said the spiritual leader’s proposed visit to the Himalayan State from March 20 to March 29 stands cancelled.

The Dalai Lama’s doctors’ have advised to him to cut down on his travels and not to exert himself, Dolma said.

Bank of Maharashtra

Mahasuper Home Loan

EMI **₹ 780/-** per Lakh

2 EMIs FREE

No Processing Fee

Contact your nearest branch
OR send SMS to 56161:
BOM+space+HOME+space+City Name

BYJU'S
IAS 2018

CSAT Module
₹ Rs. 2,000/-
Starts 6th February
10:30 AM to 1:00 PM

150+ LIVES
15th JUNE
CSAT Paper 2 के लिए विशेष समस्या विचारण सत्र

WIDGE YOURSELF AMONG ASPIRANTS ACROSS INDIA
For detailed schedule visit our office
Shop No 19,
Yashwantrao Chavan Marg,
New Market, Delhi

9205881869

Beautiful by choice

Vicco Turmeric Cream is enriched with healing turmeric and soothing sandalwood oil. It nourishes and heals my skin, making it soft, supple and radiant. Being a modern woman means you make your own choices. I choose beautiful and healthy skin.

VICCO TURMERIC CREAM

FOR NUTRITION, A REALITY OF FACT

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

PRAHARI

OUR SCHEME FOR YOUR SAFETY

In 'PRAHARI' (our community policing initiative) we collaborate with Residents' and Market Associations to sensitize Chowkidars and Security Guards to work with us & help us serve you better

YOUR SECURITY GUARDS CAN WORK WONDERS IF BETTER TRAINED AND EQUIPPED

FOR BETTER SAFETY EMPLOY SECURITY GUARDS & LET THEM BE A PART OF PRAHARI

E-mail to CP, Delhi at : cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in
Write to : CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 100 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

ALS IAS

GS कार्यशाला

CRACK IAS PRELIM EXAM IN FIRST ATTEMPT

Know all about Art of Self Study

NOVEL METHOD OF MEMORISATION, REVISION & EXAM HANDLING TECHNIQUES

MANOJ KUMAR SINGH
Managing Director: ALS, IASGS, Competition Wizard

कार्यशाला **05** 11:30am
FEBRUARY Venue: Vardhman Plaza, Nehru Vihar

DR. MUKHERJEE NAGAR
B-18, ALS House, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09
9999343999, 9311331331, 999975666

CRACK PT

ONLINE BATCH 2018 OFFLINE

(A 90 days-Crack Prelims Program with Test Series)

05 FEB. AT RAJINDER NAGAR 06 FEB. AT MUKH. NAGAR

FOR FIRST 100 STUDENTS FEE ONLY Rs. 5000/- + GST

GS TEST SERIES

PRE-TEST SERIES MAINS TEST SERIES FROM 03 FEB. FROM 04 FEB.

ESSAY & ETHICS TEST SERIES FROM 03 FEB.

OPTIONAL TEST SERIES FROM 03 FEB. PUBLIC ADMN., GEOGRAPHY & SOCIOLOGY

CSAT

(RAJINDER NAGAR - 03 FEB. & MUKH. NAGAR - 10 FEB.) TOTAL 15 CLASSES, ONLY WEEKEND

FREE FOR ALL OUR STUDENTS

FOR NEW STUDENTS ONLY Rs. 500/-

LUKMAAN IAS

RAJINDER NAGAR :- 011-45696019 & 9654034293
MUKHERJEE NAGAR :- 011-41415591 & 7836816247
For more information visit: www.lukmaanias.com

Dr. RAMASWAMY IAS ACADEMY

BUDGET 2018 ECO. SURVEY

Dr. B. RAMASWAMY 3rd Feb
Motivator, Author, Educator sharp 3 pm

WITH OTHER EXPERTS

Budget 2018 For the UPSC exam perspectives

For the 22, Rajendra Park, Old Rajendra Nagar, Near Rajendra
Place Metro Station Gate No. 3, Opp. Shri Ram Road, New Delhi-110064
Contact No.: 9350933144, 9958589406, 9958589106
Online Registration Open: www.ramaswamyiasacademy.org

BUDGET & ECO. SURVEY

In Depth Analysis with Facts & Insights. **15 HRS.**

Useful for all competitive exams like UPSC, SSC, Bank, RRB, CBI, Insurance, EPFO etc.

REGULAR CLASSES FEE 500/- ONLY

Join the Expert

RAVI R. CHOKKALINGAM

ONLINE CLASSES FEE 199/- ONLY

28/1, 3rd Floor, Old Rajendra Nagar, Delhi
Website: www.rstingias.co.in
Tel: 8447007118

DHYEYA IAS
most trusted since 2003

PRELIMS REFRESHER COURSE 2018

ARE YOU AFRAID OF PRELIMS 2018?

Only less than 2% aspirants qualify IAS Prelims
Ensure your success with Dhyeya IAS Investing

75 Days (300+ hours)

BATCH STARTS 5th FEB. | 3 PM

LIMITED SEATS: 100 ONLY

TO AVAIL 100% SCHOLARSHIP
(Only for Top 10 Students)

participate in

ALL INDIA GS TEST (PRE-2018)

4th FEB. | 12 PM

OLD RAJENDRA NAGAR

25B, 2ND FLOOR, PUSA ROAD,
METRO PILLAR NUMBER 117, NEW DELHI
9205274743 / 9205274745

ECONOMIC SURVEY

ONLINE OFFLINE

ECONOMIC SURVEY, BUDGET AND INDIA 2018 WITH DETAILED ANALYSIS AND ENRICHED STUDY MATERIAL

(FROM 13 FEB., 9 CLASSES JUST IN RS. 2000 + GST)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

PERFECT SOLUTION OF PT CURRENT AFFAIR

COVERS YEARLY ROUND-UP, ECONOMIC SURVEY, BUDGET AND INDIA 2018

(FROM 29 MARCH, 19 CLASSES JUST IN RS. 5000+GST)

PT TEST SERIES FROM 03 FEB.

LUKMAAN IAS

RAJINDER NAGAR :- 011-45696019 & 9654034293
MUKHERJEE NAGAR :- 011-41415591 & 7836816247
For more information visit: www.lukmaanias.com

LAW AMBITION LAW INSTITUTE

Since 2001

IAS & JUDICIAL Pusa Road
5th Feb. 4:45 pm 8800662140
011-49841810

JUDICIAL FOUNDATION COURSE at Mukherjee Nagar
Registration Open 7th March 9:30 am 8800660301

JUDICIAL WEEKEND 4 Feb. 9:30 am 9312548658

DJS MOCK Test Series Starts from 4th Feb. 8800662130
Registration Open Limited Seats

DU LL.B. Special Batch 2nd Feb. 4 p.m. 8800660360

UPSC Interview CLASH COURSE 03 Feb. 2018 8800662140
03 Feb. 2018 8800662140
04 Feb. 2018 8800662140
05 Feb. 2018 8800662140
06 Feb. 2018 8800662140
07 Feb. 2018 8800662140
08 Feb. 2018 8800662140
09 Feb. 2018 8800662140
10 Feb. 2018 8800662140
11 Feb. 2018 8800662140
12 Feb. 2018 8800662140
13 Feb. 2018 8800662140
14 Feb. 2018 8800662140
15 Feb. 2018 8800662140
16 Feb. 2018 8800662140
17 Feb. 2018 8800662140
18 Feb. 2018 8800662140
19 Feb. 2018 8800662140
20 Feb. 2018 8800662140
21 Feb. 2018 8800662140
22 Feb. 2018 8800662140
23 Feb. 2018 8800662140
24 Feb. 2018 8800662140
25 Feb. 2018 8800662140
26 Feb. 2018 8800662140
27 Feb. 2018 8800662140
28 Feb. 2018 8800662140
29 Feb. 2018 8800662140
30 Feb. 2018 8800662140

Regular Judiciary Evening Batch Starts soon at Mukherjee Ngr.
B-18, First Floor, above Mukherjee Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27655078, 475332639, 9312548658

IAS GS World

Committed to Excellence

सामान्य अध्ययन

Foundation Batch

भूगोल

आलोक रंजन सर

8 Feb.

Start on 3:15 pm

Our Faculty

प्रो. पुष्पेश चंद सर (JMS)	समिकांत सर
राजेश्वर सर	दीपक कुमार सर
एस.एस. पाण्डेय सर	मंजेश कुमार सर
आर्षाद सर	वी.के.त्रिपाठी सर

629, Ground Floor, Main Road, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09
#7042772062/63 9540503870

KSG

Every 3rd Selected Candidate of UPSC-CSE '16 is from KSG

MOCK INTERVIEW

CALL# 9811 293 743 & 8010 023 123

It Pays to Study with Specialist...

PT & MAINS TEST SERIES 21ST JANUARY 2018

SPECIAL FOCUS ON ANSWER WRITING SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The power of personal studies at KSG

N. DELHI : T-011-4555 2607, M-9717 380 832
C. DELHI : T-011-4517 0303, M-9811 293 743
JAIPUR : T-0141-4052 441, M-8290 800 441
BHOVAL : T-0755-4077 441, M-7509 975 361
INDORE : T-0734-4977 441, M-6893 772 941
PATNA : T-7463 950 774, M-9386 337 412

www.ksgindia.com

EDUCATIONAL

REUNION IAS

V.K. TRIPATHI

राजनीति विज्ञान

वैकल्पिक विषय

5 FEBRUARY 2018

3:00PM TO 5:30PM

303, TOP FLOOR, SATIYA HOUSE, MUKHERJEE NAGAR, DELHI-9
9999421659-58

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Along ECONOMIC SURVEY & BUDGET

16 FEB. INSIGHT

01-45990051 9818333201

UNIQUE SHIKSHA

India's top-ranked Civil Services Preparation Institute

IAS MOCK INTERVIEW

Interview Board headed by

Mr. A.K. Saxena
Ex-Jt. Secy., UPSC

Register at
www.uniqueshiksha.com/jpp
8287 360 360

Recognized by Indian Education Congress Awards - 2016 & 17

BUSINESS OFFER

Factory for Sale AT GOA

KUNDAIM - GOA

Plot area 3600 sq. mtrs
Built up area 2211 sq. mtrs

Two floor, office, including lift. System
D.G. Room, Safe, Purchase offices, conference Hall, M.D. Room, store, canteen, Fully sensor gate, Security gate, reception, Gas connection Plant, complete compound wall
Ready possession.

Contact : **Abbas Bhai**
9422059384
7020793947

TENDERS

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

E-TENDER NOTICE

(Tender ID: 2018 AAI 6478_1 & 2018 AAI 6759_1)

Airports Authority of India, Southern Region invites e-tender for granting licence for operating "Wellness Centre" on Cluster basis in the following Southern Region Airports for a period of 05 Years.

Cluster of Airports: (1) Cluster - I (Trivandrum, Calicut, Mangalore and Visakhapatnam) and (2) Cluster - II (Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Tirupati).

Minimum Monthly Guarantee (MMG) for (1) Rs.9,97,000/- p.m. (2) Rs.9,02,000/- p.m. and Last Date of Sale and Submission of e-bids for (1) 20.02.2018 (2) 27.02.2018, respectively.

The portal address for e-tender is <https://tenders.gov.in> or www.aai.aero. Contact: Joint General Manager (Comm) / SR, Phone: 044 - 22560418. Email ID: gmcomm@aii.aero. Any Extension / Corrigendum regarding the above tenders will be published in AAI/CPP portal only and all are requested to visit our website for updates.

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SOUTHERN REGION, CHENNAI

SITUATION VACANT

MEDICAL

MALABAR MEDICAL COLLEGE Hospital & Research Centre
Ulliyen, Calicut, Kerala.

URGENTLY REQUIRE

PROFESSOR / ASSO. PROFESSOR / ASST. PROFESSOR / S.R. / CONSULTANT

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Biochemistry
- Pharmacology
- Community Medicine
- Pathology
- Micro Biology
- Radiology
- ENT
- Anaesthesiology
- General Medicine
- General Surgery
- Paediatrics
- Orthopaedics
- Gynaecology
- Ophthalmology
- Gastroenterology
- Cardiology
- Neurology
- Urology

Positions exist at their proposed Medical College at Palakkad too
Apply to: hrfaculty2@gmail.com

GENERAL

ST. MICHAEL'S SR. SEC. SCHOOL
3, PUSA ROAD, DELHI -110 005

Requires: One each
T.G.T. English
T.G.T. Hindi-cum-Sanskrit
Primary Teacher
Counselor
Receptionist

Maintenance in-charge
Qualification, Age & Salary: As per Govt. rules.
Two years teaching experience preferred.
Proficiency in computer, co-curricular activities & excellent communication skills in English must.
Collect application forms from the school on working days from 5th to 13th February between 8 and 10 a.m.
Candidates who have applied earlier need not apply again.

PRINCIPAL

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

I NITIKA Ladda have lost my 10 class marksheet of ICSE Board I passed from Himalayan English School in 2006 index T/6388/047 if found please contact 9953951631

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

TO ADVERTISE

PLEASE CONTACT

Mr S.Natarajan

Ph: 011-43579797

natarajan.sivaramakrishnan@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

Your feedback is valuable to us. Please scan the QR code given or visit www.thehindu.com/feedback. You may also call us at Toll Free 1800 3000 1878 or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE

ROORKEE, HARIDWAR - 247667, UTTARAKHAND

No. 11000003360/MM-1/ITR/2017-18/IVAMF/MMED/SMILE/075 Dated: 02.02.18

Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are invited for the purchase of "Vacuum Arc-Melting Furnace with Accessories". For Details please visit Institute website: www.iitr.ac.in/administration/pages/Tenders_EOI_CPP_Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Sealed tenders should reach latest by 17:00 hours on 27/02/2018. Officer on Special Duty (MM)

SOCIETY OF INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT (SICOM)

(Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change)

111, First Floor, Pandit Deen Dayal Aasthyodaya Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Reference No. SICOM/ED/22017

The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) has been established as a technical institution of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. NCSCM is located in the campus of Anna University, Chennai. Applications are invited in the prescribed proforma for the post of Director on a contract basis with tenure of 5 years. For further details regarding the educational qualification, eligibility criterion, please visit Website www.sicommof.in; www.sicmvf.nic.in; www.ncscm.org

Design: 18136/11/0012/P18 Additional Project Director, SICOM

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (M-IV)-RZ
Road No. 44, Village Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034
E.E.(M-I)-RZ/TC/2017-18/14 Dated: 29.01.2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Last date of purchase and Download Tender Document : 19.02.2018 at 2:00 PM

Last date of Bid Preparation and Hash Submission : 20.02.2018 at 3:00 PM

Last date of Close for Bid : 20.02.2018 at 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Last date of Re-encryption of online bid : 20.02.2018 at 8:01 PM to 22.02.2018 at 3:00 PM

Last date for submission of E/M and T/C : 22.02.2018 at 3:00 PM

Opening of Financial Bid : 22.02.2018 at 3:15 PM

In the office of Executive Engineer (M-I)RZ Road No. -44, Village Pitampura, Delhi-110034

S. No.	Name of work	Tender Amount	Earnest Money	Time of Completion	Rates hold for	Cost of Tender	Tender No.
1.	Imp. Dev. of lanes by pdg. RMC in Gali No. 6, 5A, 9, 21, 22 and 17 in Mangolpur Kalan Village in Ward No. 54-N, Mangolpur in EE (M-I)RZ.			3 Months	5 Months	Rs. 500/-	299355
2.	Imp. Dev. of lanes by pdg. RMC from Kuldeep Singh House to Naveen Marble, Ram Nath House to Jawahar Singh House, DJB (UGR) to Hari Chand House, Ram Rattan House to Kali Ram House, Satbir & Aman House to Mukhtar House in Mangolpur Kalan Village in Ward No. 54-N, Mangolpur in EE (M-I)RZ			3 Months	5 Months	Rs. 500/-	299356

Tender document can be downloa online on website www.mcdonline.gov.in and also available on the website <http://mcdetender.com> For bidding by approved and eligible contractors, details of NIT can be seen on website. RO No. 121/DFI/North/2017-18 Executive Engineer (M-I)RZ

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PROJECT WING (JAMMU)

Mohinder Mansion, Batalilla Colony Near Wave Mall, Shalinda Road Jammu, J&K

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Tender on behalf of Government of Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Department, are invited for Urban electrification works from the registered contractors / Firms / Joint Ventures having specific experience for below mentioned works.

E.No: -

Scope of work: - Urban electrification works funded by REC/J&K under (POWERMED) (Urban) in Circle Rajouri.

Period of Contract: - 02 years

Cost of work Rs (Lacs): - 1052.41

Cost of tender document (Rs.): - 20000.00

Date of opening of bid: - 17.02.2018

The bidding document can be downloaded from the website www.tenders.nic.in from 31.01.2018 (12.00 Noon) to 16.02.2018 (4.00 pm)

Chief Engineer Project Wing (Jammu)

DP/J-10486

IN BRIEF



Railways reviewing flexi-fares: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI
The Ministry of Railways is having a rethink on flexi-fares and on bringing in a dynamic pricing system that will help increase occupancy and enhance revenues, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday. Replying to questions in the Rajya Sabha, he also said his Ministry was planning a major overhaul of the obsolete signalling system currently in use. PTI

Businessman arrested for stalking Zeenat Aman

MUMBAI
A businessman has been arrested by Mumbai's Juhu Police based on a complaint of stalking and criminal intimidation filed against him by veteran actor Zeenat Aman. On January 30, Aman had filed a molestation and stalking complaint against the businessman. The police said they both knew each other; however, the relationship had soured over some issues following which Aman had stopped talking to the businessman. Nevertheless, the businessman allegedly kept calling and following her. ANI

Dhinakaran kicks off outreach campaign

KUMBHAKONAM
Tamil Nadu will witness a new dawn only when the current government headed by Edappadi K Palaniswami is removed, R.K. Nagar MLA and rebel AIADMK leader T.T.V. Dhinakaran said here on Friday. Launching his State-wide 'Meet-the-People' campaign at Cholapuram, Mr. Dhinakaran heaped praise on former CM Jayalalithaa, saying she understood the problems facing the farmers in the delta districts very well.

Fire breaks out in goods train wagon in Mathura

MATHURA
A fire broke out in a wagon of a Rae Bareilly-bound goods train at the Mathura junction station on Friday, a railway official said. The fertilizer-laden train was coming from Bhopal, Senior DCM and PRO DRM Office Agra (NCR) Sanchit Tyagi said. The fire started at 5.25 p.m. and was doused by 5.54 p.m., he said. Immediately after the wagon caught fire, it was detached from the train and the fire brigade was informed, Mr. Tyagi said. PTI

Dust mitigation plan must for firms

Non-compliance with norms could lead to penalty

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Environment Ministry has made it mandatory for companies seeking environment clearance to ensure that they put in place a dust mitigation plan.

The requirements, specified in a gazette notification on January 25, say that roads leading to or at construction sites must be paved and black-topped. There can be no soil excavation without adequate dust mitigation measures in place. No loose soil, sand and construction waste can be left uncovered. A water sprinkling system is mandatory, and the measures taken should be prominently displayed at the construction site. Moreover, the



Choking capital: A 2015 study by IIT-Kanpur reported that road dust and burning of biomass and municipal solid waste were the main causes of Delhi's air pollution. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

grinding and cutting of building materials in open area is prohibited and no uncovered vehicles carrying construction material and waste are permitted.

The standards were developed by the Central Pollution Control Board as part of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and will now empower the organisa-

tion to impose penalty on companies and agencies for not complying with the norms.

A study by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kan-

pur, and commissioned by the Delhi government reported in 2015 that road dust and burning of biomass and municipal solid waste constituted the lion's share of the city's air pollution.

Road dust contributed 56% of all PM10 pollution, while it was 38% for PM2.5.

Another estimate by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, had different numbers but still ranked dust as the major contributor – 52% – to Delhi's PM10 load.

Before PM2.5 became the focus of attention – for its role in lodging itself in the lungs and for being a key component of diesel emissions – dust was the key villain for a long time. Dust is a generic term for a vast mix of silicon, aluminium, titanium, manganese, copper, barium, antimony, selenium and zinc.

Link between sanitation, stunting questioned

Water purification, sanitary latrines and hand-washing (WASH) interventions not adequate, find studies

PRIYANKA PULLA
BANGALORE

Stunting among children, or low height for age, is common in developing countries with poor sanitation. Scientists hypothesise that this is because open defecation and unclean water expose children to faecal bugs. Even if these pathogens do not cause diarrhoea, they inflame a child's gut and hamper food absorption.

However, two studies from Bangladesh and Kenya show that this hypothesis may need a rethink. The studies, which targeted over 13,000 families, showed that water purification, sanitary latrines and hand-washing (WASH) interventions in select households were not enough to prevent stunting in those households. The findings, published in *The Lancet Global Health* on January 29, mean one of two things. First, WASH interventions may need to be very widespread to make a difference. Second, factors other than WASH may be critical to stunting. Gagandeep Kang, executive director of Delhi's Translational Health Science and Research Institute, who was not involved in the stu-



Added danger: While the interventions were restricted to household compounds and human faeces, children also come in contact with the outside environment and animal faeces.

dies, says the latter is more likely in developing countries that have already made progress with hygiene. "A few decades ago, when water really was much more contaminated, I might have expected a difference," she told *The Hindu*. But today, when people are less exposed to pathogens, the role of WASH in stunting may be declining.

Seven groups formed

The two studies, to test whether WASH interventions could reduce gut-in-

flammation, and consequently, stunting, began in 2012. One group, led by Stephen Luby of U.S.'s Stanford Woods Institute of Environment, enrolled 5,551 pregnant women from around Dhaka, and divided their families into seven groups. Three groups received the three individual WASH interventions, while a fourth received nutritional counselling and dietary supplements for children. The fifth group received all three WASH interventions, the sixth received WASH as well as nutri-

tion, while a seventh served as a control. Once the pregnant women gave birth, stunting, diarrhoea and mortality rates were tracked among their children for two years.

Another research group, led by Clair Null, a child-health researcher at USA's Mathematica Policy Research, carried out a similar experiment on 8,246 pregnant women in Kenya.

Kenyan study

After two years, the Bangladeshi study found children in the WASH groups to be no taller than controls. Improved diet did not make a big difference either – it corrected only a sixth of the height deficit in the nutrition groups. The Kenyan study reported similar findings.

The findings were a surprise to Mr. Luby, because previous research supports the link between hygiene and stunting. But he cautions that it is too early to dismiss the link, because the WASH interventions may have failed at fully cutting exposure to faecal bugs and gut-inflammation. "We have forthcoming evidence that illustrates that although we

did reduce exposure to faecal organisms somewhat, there was a large reservoir in the environment that children continue to be exposed to," he told *The Hindu*. Such exposure could occur in several ways. While the interventions were restricted to household compounds and human faeces, children also come in contact with the outside environment and animal faeces. Plus, while chlorine is a good disinfectant, it may not work against protozoa like *Giardia lamblia*.

Prenatal nutrition

An alternative explanation, Clair Null says, is that factors, like prenatal nutrition, are as important as WASH. "If I were a policy maker, I would not invest in WASH to reduce stunting right now, although it might work in a certain set of circumstances. The problem is that we don't know what those circumstances are," she told *The Hindu*.

Ms. Kang said governments must still focus on WASH because it is a basic human right. "But should we expect sanitation to solve stunting? It will not," she says.

PIL for gender-neutral rape law dismissed

Let Parliament look into it, says SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Why are certain crimes like rape in the Indian Penal Code targeting men alone?

Why cannot women also be the perpetrators of crimes like under Section 375 b (insertion of a foreign objects into the private parts of a woman)?

These are the questions that the Supreme Court faced on Friday from a petitioner, in a PIL it dismissed. The judges on the Bench, led by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, reacted with different questions, all voicing an opinion that it is up to Parliament to gauge the changed social circumstances, and maybe revamp the colonial penal code.

'Women-protective'

"So you are saying that a woman can stalk a man. Well, the law is open for change. Let Parliament look into it," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud observed.

Chief Justice Misra said provisions like rape were "women-protective" and cannot be used to make women perpetrators.

"Have you ever seen a woman file a complaint against a woman for rape? There are different sections for that," Chief Justice Misra reacted.

The petitioner-in-person, advocate Rishi Malhotra, said the term 'man,' wherever it is used in the definition of crimes under the IPC, should be replaced by 'whoever,' thus making the crime applicable to both men and women. He claimed the IPC was violative of the fundamental right against discrimination on the basis of gender enumerated in Article 15 of the Constitution.

The Chief Justice responded, observing that Article 15 was specifically intended to protect women and children from discrimination.

Yogendra Yadav announces farmers' protest next month

SNEHA SARAF
MUMBAI

Swaraj India National president Yogendra Yadav on Friday expressed disappointment over the budgetary allocation to agriculture, which has come down to 2.36% from 2.38% last year, and announced a protest by farmers from across the country, beginning in March.

"It may seem that the budget aims to improve the economical conditions of the farmers, but it is all a hoax," Mr. Yadav said at a press conference.

The former Aam Aadmi Party leader said that a survey conducted by the government found that the farmers' income has been stagnant for the last four years, with it being the lowest in 25 years. "The farmers just want the full price on their crops and freedom from loans."

He also said that the government has not been fulfilling its promise on the



Taking a dig: Swaraj India National president Yogendra Yadav addressing a press conference on Friday. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

MNREGS. According to the requirements of the States, an estimated ₹80,000 crore is required, whereas the government is providing only ₹55,000 crore, which is the same as last year. "The only solution to the grievances of the farmers is an increase in their income, which is directly related to the price."

"The Prime Minister cannot get votes by just dividing the nation into Hindus and Muslims," Mr. Yadav said.

Tulsi and ashvagandha to purify Nekkampur Lake in Hyderabad

'Floating treatment wetland' uses hydroponics for clean-up the water body

SYED MOHAMMED
HYDERABAD

From a distance, it might appear as if hyacinth has consumed the Nekkampur Lake in the city. But a closer inspection will reveal there is more to the waterbody than meets the eye. Gently floating on the surface is an artificial 'island' made of meticulously chosen plant species.

"The island is a floating treatment wetland (FTW). Several plants on this FTW help clean the lake by absorbing nutrients, such as excess nitrates and oxygen, present in the water. They thus reduce the content of these chemicals," says Madhulika Choudhary, who heads Dhruvansh, an NGO.

The FTW was inaugurated on February 2, World



Nature at work: Plants on 'floating treatment wetland' clean the lake by absorbing nitrates in the water. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

Wetlands Day. Measuring 3,000 sq. ft., the FTW is a joint effort of Dhruvansh, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, the Ranga Reddy district administration and other organisations.

Based on the soil-less hydroponics technique, the FTW comprises four layers.

Floatable bamboo forms its base, over which styrofoam cubicles are placed. The third layer consists of gunny bags. The final layer is of gravel.

"Hydroponics permits plants to grow only on sunlight and water. There is no need of soil. There are small holes at the bottom,

which facilitate the flow of nutrients from the water to the plants (the biological uptake process), which are held upright by the gravel layer," Ms. Choudhary says.

Cleaning agents planted on the FTW include vetivers, canna, cattails, bulrush, citronella, hibiscus, fountain grass, flowering herbs, tulsi and ashvagandha.

Micro-organisms growing on the FTW and plant root systems break down and consume the organic matter in the water through microbial decomposition. The root systems filter out sediments and pollutants.

Periodic biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) readings are taken from the Pollution Control Board. When the project began, the BOD was 27 mg/l.

Colours of joy



Dancers performing at the Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Faridabad on Friday. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

CID searches houses of ex-IPS officer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The West Bengal CID on Friday raided the residences of former IPS officer Bharati Ghosh and police officers apparently close to her for their alleged involvement in misconduct and extortion from civilians.

The raids were conducted at Ms. Ghosh's houses in the city – at Naktala and Mukundapur – in the early hours, besides her residence in West Midnapore district, a CID officer said. A large amount of gold jewellery, cash and documents were seized.

The step was taken following a court order after a person complained that some police personnel had forcefully taken money from him last year, the officer said.

Raids were also conducted at the residences of two other police officers of West Midnapore district.

Scorpene submarine programme makes progress

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The second Scorpene submarine *Khanderi* is expected to complete sea trials by the middle of this year, while the fourth and the fifth submarines, under construction at Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, are expected to be assembled later this year.

The third submarine *Karanj* was launched into water early this week.

"*Khanderi* is undergoing extensive trials, including deep dive trials. The fourth and fifth Scorpene submarines are to be booted up this year," a senior officer said on Friday.

'Boot Together' is a pro-

cess wherein five separate sections are welded to put a submarine together.

Technology transfer

Khanderi, which was launched in January 2017, is expected to complete all trials by the middle of this year, subject to the Monsoon and will be ready for induc-

tion. MDL is manufacturing six Scorpene submarines under technology transfer from Naval Group of France under a 2005 contract worth \$3.75 bn. The first of the class, *INS Kalvari*, joined service in December last year.

Meanwhile, the just launched *Karanj* has to undergo rigorous harbour and

sea acceptance trails after which it would be commissioned into service.

"*Karanj* will join the Navy next year. The fourth Scorpene is expected to be launched into water next year," the officer added.

The Scorpene class is the Navy's first modern conventional submarine series in al-

most two decades since *INS Sindushastra*, which was procured from Russia in July 2000.

Meanwhile, the Navy is drawing up plans to install Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) modules on all the Scorpene submarines when they go for normal refit six years after their induction.

6 EDITORIAL



Desert defeat

The Rajasthan bypoll victory has given the Congress a ray of electoral hope

Byelections are not clear pointers to the direction of the political wind, even when they are held close to a general election. A host of local factors are often at play, and selection of candidates and civic grievances exercise as much influence on the voter’s mind as do livelihood concerns and governance issues. Even so, the results of the Rajasthan byelections would have jolted the ruling BJP. The Congress not only won the two Lok Sabha seats and the lone Assembly seat, but it did so with impressive margins. In the 2014 Lok Sabha election the BJP made a complete sweep of Rajasthan, winning all 25 seats. The Congress’s recovery of some of the lost ground reflects a general dissatisfaction with the Vasundhara Raje government. Ms. Raje seems to have paid the price for an imperious attitude that alienated large sections within her own party. True, Rajasthan voters have not given either the BJP or the Congress two consecutive terms since the BJP returned to power in 1993. But the Modi wave of 2014 was supposed to have changed the political narrative, with the BJP emerging as a pan-Indian party and the natural party of government. The BJP has lost some Assembly elections since 2014. However, Bihar 2015 was arguably a mere blip, more on account of a coming together of a motley mix of opposition parties than on account of any erosion in its base. Punjab 2017 was written off as the Akali Dal’s loss rather than the BJP’s own. But in Rajasthan, as in Gujarat where the BJP scraped through in late-2017, the two national parties will be in a straight contest. A defeat can mean only one thing: the BJP is slipping in approval ratings in the run-up to 2019.

A negative vote it may have been, but the verdict is also a vindication of the Congress tactic of letting a young Sachin Pilot be its public face. Many in the party blamed the inability to close the gap with the BJP in Gujarat on the failure to identify a youthful leader, and instead relying entirely on borrowed leaders such as Alpesh Thakor, Hardik Patel and Jignesh Mevani to free it of a jaded look. If it wants to beat the BJP, the Congress has to find a way to counter its strategy of turning every election into a presidential contest between Prime Minister Modi and Congress president Rahul Gandhi. The byelection results suggest the key to doing so lies in encouraging a youthful regional leadership to emerge in each State. But if the BJP is slipping in Rajasthan, it is gaining in West Bengal: the party finished second behind the Trinamool Congress in the Uluberia Lok Sabha and Noapara Assembly constituencies. With the collapse of the Left Front vote bank, it is the BJP that is emerging as a challenger. But a second-place finish in West Bengal is poor compensation. The BJP’s setback in Rajasthan has given the Congress a ray of electoral hope, as the State goes to the polls later this year.

Get cracking

The Centre must draw up an implementation roadmap for the new health scheme

The NDA government lost precious time in its first three years in initiating a health scheme that serves the twin purposes of achieving universal coverage and saving people from high health care costs. It announced two years ago in the Budget a health protection scheme offering a cover of ₹1 lakh per family, but ultimately that did not extend beyond ₹30,000. Fresh hopes have been raised with the announcement of Ayushman Bharat in Budget 2018. The plan has the components of opening health centres for diagnostics, care and distribution of essential drugs as envisaged in the National Health Policy, and a National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) to provide a cover of up to ₹5 lakh each for 10 crore poor and vulnerable families for hospitalisation. These are challenging goals, given the fragmented nature of India’s health system. Some States already purchase health cover for the poor, but do not regulate private secondary and tertiary care services or treatment costs. The task before the Centre, which has provided ₹3,200 crore for the programme areas, is to now draw up an implementation roadmap.

Developing countries that launched universal health coverage schemes over a decade ago, such as Mexico, had to address some key challenges. These included transfer of resources to provinces, recruitment of health personnel, and purchase and distribution of medicines to the chosen units. All these apply to India. Moreover, the steady growth of a for-profit tertiary care sector poses the additional challenge of arriving at a basic care package for those who are covered by the NHPS, at appropriate costs. A national health system will also have to subsume all existing state-funded insurance schemes. This will give beneficiaries access not just within a particular State but across the country to empanelled hospitals. In the case of the local health centres that are planned under the Ayushman Bharat programme, there is tremendous potential to play a preventive role by reducing the incidence and impact of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. Such centres can dispense free essential medication prescribed by all registered doctors and procured through a centralised agency. But the efficiency of a large-scale health system depends on strict regulation. The early experience with state-funded insurance for the poor shows that some private hospitals may resort to unnecessary tests and treatments to inflate claims. Determination of treatment costs by the government is therefore important. This will also aid those with private health insurance, since it eliminates information asymmetry and provides a comparison point. The Centre must share details of the next steps.

Forging a new nuclear deal

The India-U.S. civil nuclear agreement is obsolete. In reviving it, India must heed the new global realities



SUHASINI HAIDAR

Watching the Republic Day parade, where 10 ASEAN leaders were chief guests, it was easy to miss the fact that the dates of their visit also marked the anniversary of another big visit three years ago: the visit by then U.S. President Barack Obama, when he announced a “breakthrough” in the India-U.S. civil nuclear deal, to finally pave the way for a commercial contract. “The deal is done,” Sujatha Singh, who was Foreign Secretary at the time, said as the government issued papers and held briefings describing the nature of the agreement between India and the U.S. on supplier liability and tracking requirements, which would enable American companies to build nuclear power reactors in India.

A decade on

Today, nearly a decade since the memorandum of understanding were inked, and three years after the last wrinkles were ironed out, there is no sign yet of any concrete contract between an American company and the Indian authorities to build a reactor. In 2009, both GE-Hitachi and Toshiba-Westinghouse had begun talks on techno-commercial agreements for six reactors each in India. These commercial contracts were to be the start of the ‘payoff’ for the U.S. that had considerably shifted its stand on non-proliferation to give India the waivers needed, and they were to herald India’s arrival on the global nuclear power stage in return.

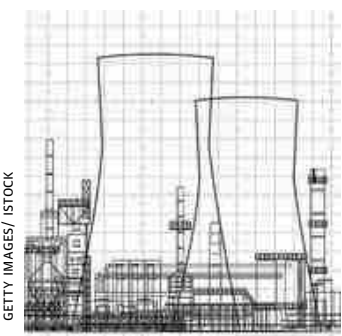
Instead, GE-Hitachi’s plans were shelved after it rejected the Obama-Modi agreement in January 2015, saying GE would not ac-

cept the compromise formula on supplier liability. (While others have indicated they would accept the liability offer, none of them has put that on paper.)

Toshiba-Westinghouse then carried the baton to actualise the India-U.S. civil nuclear deal, but ran into a different storm as both Toshiba and Westinghouse had major financial troubles last year. After a near-bankruptcy, Toshiba jettisoned Westinghouse for just \$4.6 billion to a Canadian consortium, a deal that is now expected to be cleared by the end of 2018.

As the U.S. sends Westinghouse officials to India next week to reopen negotiations, the government must consider all that has changed before deciding to go ahead with the commercial contract. With shifts in global politics, renewable energy technology, the U.S.’s commitment to India, and the supplier’s capacity and ability, it would be ridiculous if India remained steadfast to a deal envisaged a decade ago under very different circumstances.

To begin with, there are changes in the deal itself. The financial crisis was set off because Westinghouse went into major cost overruns, possibly worth more than \$15 billion, in building four AP1000 reactors at two projects in the U.S., the same reactors as the ones meant for India. When work was halted on the Westinghouse projects in South Carolina, the construction was already five years over schedule. India’s past record with Russian projects (the only foreign collaboration operational so far) puts the mean time to construct a reactor here at nine years. This would mean that even if an India-U.S. techno-commercial contract is finally readied in 2019, and the ground breaking begins immediately, it may not see fruition until 2029, a good 20 years after the nuclear agreement was signed. Westinghouse’s new buyers have already pared the bu-



business, will not construct the nuclear power project in India, and will only supply reactors and components. In the terrible scenario of a Fukushima-type nuclear accident in India, this further dilutes the liability that U.S. companies would carry. This was certainly not the future envisioned by those who first negotiated the India-U.S. civil nuclear agreement, and it calls into question whether the agreement, as it stood in January 2015 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Obama made that announcement, is even valid.

The Trump effect

Second, Donald Trump’s presidency has taken a very sharp turn away from renewable energy, and even the promise of nuclear dollars have dimmed in comparison to the lure of fossil fuels in America. In his State of the Union address last week, Mr. Trump said that the U.S. has “ended the war on beautiful, clean coal,” and will now mine, export and push oil, gas, coal and shale trade into its foreign outreach. A case in point is the big pitch Mr. Trump made during his meeting with Mr. Modi in Washington last June, which led to Indian orders for both oil and gas shipped from America. As a result, New Delhi may not get the support that the Obama administration had promised both on financing renewable energy projects and in facilitating India-U.S. civil nuclear power deals.

India has already received a

Tugging at the Centre

The BJP is the party to watch in the forthcoming elections in Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya



SANJAY KUMAR

With the diverse nature of political competition in each of the three northeastern States – Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya – going to polls in mid-February, it is difficult to say what may be the overall trend. But though there are many regional parties contesting elections besides the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party, the spotlight will be on the performance of the BJP.

The BJP presence

The BJP is unlikely to form the government in any of these States, but it is likely to make its presence felt in a big way by contesting elections either alone or in alliance with smaller regional parties. It is clear that the BJP is trying hard to make its presence felt in the northeastern States. This is not for the sake of adding to its tally in the Lok Sabha (these States account for only five seats), but the BJP is trying hard to send out a signal that its

reach extends beyond the Hindi heartland. Even though the BJP is not a dominant political force in the northeast, by forming alliances it could spring a surprise in the Assembly elections.

In Meghalaya, a State with a very large Christian population (nearly 75%), the BJP is hoping to emerge as a formidable force in alliance with the National People’s Party (NPP). In Tripura, the Left is facing an anti-incumbency of decades, and the Congress has failed to give any indication of its revival in the State. In such circumstances, the BJP seems well poised to put up a strong challenge to the Left Front government by making an effort to form an alliance with smaller regional parties like the Indigenous People’s Front of Tripura (IPFT).

Nagaland ties

With 11 political parties, including the ruling Naga People’s Front (NPF), seeking a poll boycott till a solution to the Naga issue, the situation is fluid. The BJP hopes to make further inroads in Nagaland by weakening the ruling party, the NPF. The NPF had won the 2013 Assembly elections convincingly, with 38 of 60 seats and 47.1% of the



RITU RAJ KOINWAR

vote. But the party has weakened with factionalism running deep. It no longer remains the dominant party in Nagaland and the BJP hopes to gain from the rifts within. Former Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has defected from the NPF to the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party. The BJP is planning to contest elections alone and hopes to gain from being in power in the Centre as the State largely depends on grants from the Central government. Even if the BJP does not manage to win a majority, it may play an important role in forming the coalition government in the likely situation of a hung Assembly.

The BJP has hardly been pre-

sent in Tripura, but with Congress MLAs joining its ranks, it has managed to make its presence stronger. Of the 10 Congress MLAs, eight have already defected to the BJP and the Congress vote share of 36.5% in the 2013 Assembly elections seems to be only notional now. With the defection of eight MLAs, the support base of the Congress has also significantly shifted to the BJP. While it is difficult to imagine how much vote share the BJP may have at present, it is certainly far more than the less-than-2% votes it polled during the last three Assembly elections. The Left has won all Assembly elections since 1993 with handsome margins, but there are indications of a significant decline in the vote share of the Left due to anti-incumbency. The issue of unemployment remains a major issue and the BJP is hoping to gain from people’s unhappiness against the government. Its alliance with the IPFT can help the party make inroads among the Adivasis who constitute nearly a third of the total number of voters in the State.

Fragmented Meghalaya

In the fragmented political envi-

ronment of Meghalaya, it is difficult to forecast which party might win the elections and form the government in case of a hung Assembly. In the last 18 years, eight governments have been formed, with a brief period of President’s rule. The State has a history of defections. On the eve of Assembly elections, MLAs from different parties have switched allegiance. Nationalist Congress Party leader Marathon Sangma and four other independent MLAs joined the Congress. A few days ago, five Congress MLAs quit the party to join the NPP, which is an ally of the BJP government at the Centre. At the moment, the State seems to be heading for a direct contest between the Congress, the single largest party in the Assembly for the last two decades, and the Conrad Sangma-led NPP. While the Congress hopes to gain from the stability that Congress leader Mukul Sangma has been able to provide to State politics, it is still early to forecast if that may happen.

A changed landscape

Finally, shifts in the world nuclear industry must be studied closely before heading back into negotiations with new companies. As the pressure to lower nuclear power tariffs increases, nuclear safety requirements have become more stringent, putting intense strain on all those in the business. Ironically, while French President Emmanuel Macron visits India for the International Solar Alliance this March, much of his bilateral negotiations will focus on getting a better deal in Jaitapur for EDF, which is counting on the nuclear project for its own financial future. Most nuclear companies globally are staring at major losses over their nuclear businesses, and this too must be factored into India’s negotiations. More countries now see nuclear power as a “base-load” option, to be kept as back-up for the unstable, but infinitely less costly and eco-friendly solar and hydroelectric power options. That is, nuclear power is losing its primacy in the energy mix. In 2016, for example, global wind power output grew by 16%, solar by 30%, but nuclear energy only by 1.4%.

As a result of all these changes, the India-U.S. civil nuclear agreement for commercial projects, as it was completed all those years ago, is now obsolete and reviving it will require a different template that takes into account India and the new global realities. The deal that was “done” is now dead. Long live a new deal.

Sanjay Kumar is a Professor and currently the Director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Budget 2018-19

As pointed out by this newspaper, it is clear that the Budget is a response to the declining support for the Bharatiya Janata Party in Gujarat’s rural areas, as was seen during the Assembly elections (“Centre reads ground signals from Gujarat”, Feb. 2). To add to that was the jolt that the BJP received in the Rajasthan byelections. People supported and cooperated with the government during demonetisation, when the goods and services tax was rolled out, when the LPG subsidy was removed, etc., yet the government has been negligent towards rural India. The Prime Minister seems to have felt the pulse of the people. This Budget is a timely and sensible

reaction to the anger of the people.

J.P. REDDY,
Nalgonda

That the excise duty on petrol and diesel is now down by ₹2 is a gimmick because now there is a new road cess of ₹8, so the price of petrol will remain the same. Also, how is this a Budget for the poor? The proportion of funds for MGNREGA has gone down, and it looks like the government is not going to be able to double farmers’ incomes by 2022. The expenditure on agriculture and rural development, as percentage of GDP, has reduced from 1.15% to 1.08%.

S.K. KHOSLA,
Chandigarh

It is quite evident that the

Budget was pieced together to look pro-poor more out of compulsion than conviction. It took the shape it did on account of the distress and disillusionment of the people and the BJP’s awareness that playing the Hindutva card alone would not get it through the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Announcing pro-poor measures without allocating sufficient funds made the Budget no better than a document of wishful thinking. Given the government’s track record as one that is long on ideas and short on performance, we are inclined to infer that the welfareist as well as ameliorative measures announced in the Budget could well turn out to be *jumlas*. For instance, among other things, the

Budget does not specify details of the National Health Protection Scheme. It is inexplicable that it left the problem of joblessness unaddressed, which has the potential to be the government’s nemesis.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode

Russia’s position

This is an open letter to the Ambassador of Poland. We have noted with deep regret the remarks made by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Poland, Marek Magierowski, advising India to be “be very careful with Moscow” (“Poland wants sanctions against Russia to go on”, Jan. 21). His other statements are also embarrassing. He says, “Poland’s opinion was based on tough military measures against it in

recent years.” Are there any particular examples? He also says, “Annexation of Crimea was the first time in post-War Europe that the borders were moved.” First, Crimea joined Russia by referendum, and second, let us not forget about former Yugoslavia and NATO-led bombings conducted in violation of international law. Russia as a sovereign country and a responsible international player has every right to defend itself. The location of our armed forces in particular areas of our own territory is justified by not only the uncontrolled expansion of NATO, but also placing by leading powers of the Alliance weapons of mass destruction in non-nuclear NATO members. The Western sanctions

against Russia are completely illegal, and such actions do not allow us to refer to their proponents as followers of international law. Russia is keen to cooperate closely with every concerned country to resolve the Ukrainian crisis within the framework of the Minsk agreements, which are unfortunately not implemented due to unwillingness of the present Kiev authorities. I remain open for mutually beneficial interaction with the Polish Ambassador, while hoping that India, a close partner of Russia, will not be used for the mentioned and likewise statements in the future.

NIKOLAY R. KUADSHEV,
Russian Ambassador to India, New Delhi

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/

Eyes to the island

A public health project in Car Nicobar set out to eliminate a rare occurrence of hyperendemic trachoma, an infectious condition known to cause blindness. **Lalitha Sridhar** reports on how an indigenous community, with the help of doctors, battled the odds to beat an invisible adversary

A narrow road winds past dense vegetation, idyllic beaches and rain-soaked villages glistening in sunshine. Along the way, profusely blooming pinwheelflowers frame prefabricated homes built on stilts in a likeness of their lost predecessors, the prized *patis*, which were handwoven with palm leaves, rattan and lalang grass. Goats bleat, pigs grunt and hens squawk around the dwellings that were once closer to the shore but were flattened, like nearly everything else here, on December 26, 2004. Local memory divides Car Nicobar's long and sometimes violent history more simply now: before and after the tsunami.

Aberdeen Blair (89), chief of the Car Nicobar Tribal Council, remembers more. "When I was small, we had no money, sugar or rice. We only had coconuts. My parents did not wear clothes like this," he says, pointing to his lungis and T-shirt. Blair smiles as easily and often as he shifts between Nicobari, Hindi and English, and goes on to add, "I have jeans, too. Everything has changed." The laminated certificates and photographs on the wall behind him document the highlights of such a lifetime.

Nicobar is India's southernmost district. Car Nicobar is its northernmost island and headquarters. The Nicobarese are the largest (numbering 27,186 in the 2011 Census), most urbanised, and most influential among the six better-known tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Their indigenous peers survive tenuously in the hundreds (Jarawas and Shompen) and tens (Great Andamanese, Onge and Sentinelese).

Preventable blindness

Other numbers appear in fading paint on the walls of the houses here. 'MDA', it says, followed by a date, for three consecutive years – 2010, 2011 and 2012. Mass Drug Administration is the medical response to a public health concern that entails treating the entire population of a specified area with a prescribed dosage of pharmaceuticals.

The first woman ophthalmologist in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Anita Shah (55), led such a project in Car Nicobar following the discovery of a hyperendemic and active infection of trachoma on the island. Trachoma is a contagious and preventable cause of blindness, rarely seen in India since the 1950s and 1960s. Blair and his 21-member *tu-het* (extended matrilineal family units of up to 100 people) were among the over 1,500 recipients of the MDA programme in the village of Sawai (*Orka-sip* in Nicobarese), west of the island.

"When I held eye camps in 2008, I noticed a steady stream of trachomatous trichiasis [sight-threatening conjunctival scarring, for which Blair was later treated] cases in Car Nicobar. My generation of ophthalmologists has hardly ever seen trachoma, let alone treat it. Yet I kept meeting young people in their twenties who had their lashes growing inward and eyelids fused. They lived in great pain, in darkened homes because they couldn't bear sunlight. I am a surgeon, not a community medicine specialist, but I knew a survey had to be taken up immediately," says Dr. Shah, Joint Secretary in the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) since 2008. She is a diminutive woman in the habit of providing precise instructions to her team, essential given the problems her location poses.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands endure severe inadequacies in intra-island transport, telecom, electricity, potable water and garbage disposal. Healthcare infrastructure is far from perfect. Nevertheless, a measure of confidence is inspired by the bustling sprawl of the G.B. Pant Medical College and Hospital in Port Blair, the referral medical institution for all the islands. This is where Dr. Shah is Deputy Director-Ophthalmology. The airy and clean B.J.R. Hospital in Car Nicobar, which she visits regularly, is one of two such district-level facilities.

Dr. Shah had to tenaciously follow up for over two years to mobilise support for the 'Trachoma Rapid Assessment (TRA) in Nicobar 2010' survey by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Dr. R. P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences (RPCOS), New Delhi, and the Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Port Blair, with backing from the NPCB, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. "Islands are easily forgotten," she says matter-of-factly.

In a far corner

The Nicobar archipelago is separated from the Andaman cluster by the Ten Degree Channel, a minor international shipping route named so for its latitude north of the equator. The Indian Ocean tsunami arrived here at 7 a.m., roughly 40 minutes after the earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, and two hours before it reached the subcontinent's southeastern coast. Car Nicobar, part of the Nicobar and Andaman Tribal Reserve Area



The first woman ophthalmologist in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dr. Anita Shah, led a Mass Drug Administration project in Car Nicobar following the discovery of trachoma on the island. (Below) Aberdeen Blair was among the 1,500-plus recipients of the MDA programme in Sawai village. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT/GETTY IMAGES



and ringed by 51 km of silvery beaches, is approximately 1,450 km from mainland India.

In Car Nicobar, the disused iron bridge in Kimious stands as forlorn evidence of the devastation. As a percentage of the total population, in India, the Nicobar Islands lost the most lives in the tsunami. The villages of Malaka and Kakanua had the highest casualties. Mus was cut off by a subsidence of land and the pooling of backwater in several places. Tribespeople from Sawai, Arong and Teatop were pushed into the forests at the centre of the island, where they survived for a week without food or water before evacuation. They were moved out of overcrowded relief camps in Port Blair and elsewhere in the islands and resettled in Car Nicobar nearly two years after the tsunami. Dr. Shah's surgical outreach began after their return.

Two teams investigated Dr. Shah's concerns by examining 7,277 inhabitants of 10 clusters selected for the highest risk of developing trachoma. The TRA found a very active trachoma infection rate of 50.8% in children aged 1-9 years, with the proportion of infected children in the surveyed villages ranging from 37.5% to 73%.

"We were shocked and surprised by the magnitude of the trachoma burden in Car Nicobar," says Dr. Praveen Vashist, Professor and Head, Community Ophthalmology Department, RPCOS, AIIMS, who made four trips to the island over the course of the project. "I did not realise that the location was so difficult to reach. An MDA covering an entire tribal population in a remote location was a first for India. It was a different experience for us. Active trachoma infections in children occur without any symptoms. If they are not treated, they lead to irreversible blindness in adulthood. We found that, due to the tsunami, there were no children under the age of six in Kimious village."

Trachoma occurs upon repeated infections from the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. It thrives in congested living conditions among populations that have limited access to water and healthcare. It is transmitted by flies, and aided by poor personal hygiene and fomites (shared objects such as towels, utensils and bedding, which are likely to carry

the infection). The 2010 TRA also notes, "Co-habitation of Nicobari people with animals like pigs, hens, goats, dogs, cats etc. could be a contributory risk factor."

Going the distance

Doctors travelled for the MDA by helicopters with few seats. Services were often called off in uncertain weather. There is no scheduled ferry to Car Nicobar and administrative personnel posted here face frequent shortages in the supply of basic groceries, including vegetables, which come from Port Blair. Dosage had to be measured individually (20 mg per kilo of body weight). Dispersed neighbourhoods were covered simultaneously to prevent the recurrence of infections. It was tedious and tiring work.

Dr. Vashist says: "The local team led by Dr. Shah was exceptional. Our work was made easier by the friendly Nicobarese people. We only had to explain to the chiefs, and the villagers would follow the instructions." Each of the 15 villages in Car Nicobar, distributed over 127 sq. km, elects a 'Captain' for a five-year term. Blair is the head of their council for his lifetime.

The operation to treat trachoma is quick and is performed under local anaesthesia as a day-case procedure. Patients can get back to work very quickly (a point emphasised before surgery, since lost working time is a major concern for them). The risk of wound infection is relatively low because of the good blood supply of the eyelid and therefore surgery can be performed in patients' own villages.

The medical team set up slide shows

on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) SAFE (Surgery for trichiasis, Antibiotics for infections, Facial cleanliness, and Environmental improvement) guidelines in schools and community halls, and at venues near churches, such as the rebuilt chapel in Mus, a pilgrimage site that has the grave of Bishop John Richardson, after whom the district hospital in Car Nicobar is named.

The late Padma Bhushan awardee was the first Nicobarese to be ordained an Anglican priest. He's credited with establishing the village councils and authoring a primer on the Car language, into which he also translated the Bible. Blair has Bishop Richardson's laminated photo in his living room.

"Public health initiatives cannot succeed without the support of local communities," says Dr. Promila Gupta, Deputy Director General, NPCB, adding that blindness comes with considerable economic costs in terms of livelihoods lost.

Blind curve

Well over half a century ago, from 1959 to 1963, trachoma was a major public health problem in three States – Punjab (79.1% occurrence), Rajasthan (74.2%) and Uttar Pradesh (68.1%) – show data from NPCB. The National Programme for Control of Blindness was launched in 1976. The flagship Central government initiative emanated from what was originally the Trachoma Control Programme of 1963. It no longer lists the disease as among the leading causes of blindness in India, which today are cataract (62.6%) and refractive error (19.70%). The trachoma outbreak in Car

When I held eye camps in 2008, I noticed a steady stream of trachomatous trichiasis cases in Car Nicobar. My generation of ophthalmologists has hardly ever seen trachoma, let alone treat it.

ANITA SHAH, Joint Secretary, National Programme for Control of Blindness

Nicobar has been the only recent exception.

"On the days we had asked everyone in a village to be present, we would sometimes work till 9 in the night," says Yashumeri, 34, a cheerful staff nurse at the B.J.R. Hospital. Team members recall being welcomed with sweet tender coconut water everywhere they went. The Nicobarese call themselves *holchu* (friend), although the term can be used pejoratively by the islands' settlers.

Yashumeri's familiarity with the area came in handy when refrigerators had to be commandeered to maintain the tricky cold chain for liquid azithromycin, a broad-spectrum antibiotic that had to be transported from mainland India to Car Nicobar. A tablet substitute was eventually found for the second round of the MDA programme in 2011.

Meticulously maintained registers list absentee and sick residents (for follow-ups), pregnant women (who were not included), and deaths. "If someone missed a dosage, we would return to make sure they took it," says John James, 44, the first Nicobarese ophthalmic assistant on the island.

"I was so nervous when a prevalence

Public health initiatives cannot succeed without the support of local communities.

PROMILA GUPTA, Deputy Director General, National Programme for Control of Blindness

survey was conducted in 2013, after the third round of MDA," admits Dr. Shah, who was hugely relieved to find that the active trachoma infection in children was down to 6.8% from the 50.8% that it was in 2010. This was, however, still above the 5% allowed by the WHO. Meanwhile, patients who had got their vision back and were free from pain began asking for eye drops. They took delight in how big their eyes suddenly appeared. ICE (information, communication, education) outreach and eyelid correction surgeries continue even now.

Trachoma is "hyperendemic in many of the poorest and most rural areas of 41 countries of Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Australia and the Middle East," says the WHO, which has been pushing the GET 2020 (Global Elimination of Trachoma by 2020) alliance since 1996. India is a partner. When Car Nicobar was again assessed in February 2017, trachoma prevalence was down to 1.6%.

India moved to apply for 'trachoma-free' status over a meeting with WHO officials on January 11, 2018, after the release of the National Trachoma Prevalence Survey 2014-17 by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J. P. Nadda in Delhi on December 8, 2017. The survey covered 10 districts from seven States and Union Territories, among them East Delhi, Bikaner, Banaskantha and Car Nicobar. It shows that the overall prevalence of active infection among children below nine years is only 0.7%. "We expect to meet the 2020 target," Dr. Vashist says.

Eye on the future

Time moves differently on Car Nicobar. The roar of the ocean is audible as a small group of men and women work silently. They are preparing the soil outside an (also prefabricated) *elpanam* or 'death house', next to a modest cemetery with a handful of crosses on cement platforms. The community gets involved in funerary tasks as it does with wedding festivities and shared parenting, the latter a custom known as *haruk*, which ensures that no child is orphaned. Access to Car Nicobar is highly restricted under the Andaman and Nicobar (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956, and provides some protection to indigenous ways of life.

The 2004 tsunami was not the first to devastate the islands: patchy records exist for major earthquakes in 1847, 1881 and 1941, and another tsunami that originated in Sumatra in 1861. But the last one has altered life here.

The Central government adopted a one-size-fits-all rehabilitation policy to build nearly 10,000 twin (instead of freestanding) homes across 11 islands. Reinforced cement concrete, aero-con blocks and corrugated galvanised iron sheets imported by large contractors from mainland India at an average cost of ₹10 lakh per unit replaced locally sourced, natural building materials. Not enough thought was given to subsistence-specific locations, gender-sensitive land rights, natural ventilation suited to the tropical weather, and the ability to effect repairs with local materials.

On the white-sands Malaka beach, named for the strategic strait near Aceh in Indonesia, a lush jungle has already claimed what used to be, before the tsunami, beachfront residential quarters for Indian Air Force officers. The island is no longer a family station for them. Nicobarese leader Edward Kutchat, it is said, granted land for this airbase in exchange for the coat that Jawaharlal Nehru was wearing when they met sometime in the early 1960s.

The sun rises as early as quarter past five even on a January morning, and lights up the pristine coastline. The scattered debris of plastic garbage washed up by the waves is not immediately obvious, quite like its environmental implications. Even the twinkle in Aberdeen Blair's eyes will only hint at them. Dr. Shah, who appreciates his gentle way of speaking, never fails to visit the elder on her trips to the island.

Blair's 'Prototype twin unit designed and constructed by Central Public Works Department' is one of the 3,941 'permanent shelters' allotted to Car Nicobar in 2006. Rendered frail by age, Blair is mostly confined indoors these days. He credits the doctors at B.J.R. Hospital with treating a fracture of the tibia and saving his life when he had a stroke, some years after his close call with trachoma and blindness. "Oh, I am very lucky," he adds, his hand making a sweeping gesture that included his sofa, TV, Nicobarese Bible, and polite grandson serving tea in ceramic cups. "At least I have a place to live, you see?"

FROM PAGE ONE

Capital gains tax spooks markets

The BSE Realty index was the worst hit with a fall of 6.28% or 162 points. Incidentally, the BSE Midcap and BSE Smallcap indices lost over 4% each.

Bond yields hardened as well during the early trading hours of Friday expecting a hawkish stance from the Reserve Bank of India. They cooled off only after reports that the central bank will conduct open market operations and buybacks.

The yield on the 10-year

bond, which closed at 7.6% on Thursday, touched an intraday high of 7.68% before easing to 7.56% on Friday.

“Clearly, the government did not follow the glide path (for fiscal consolidation) ... The bond markets will continue to be very anxious unless there is a statement in the central bank’s upcoming monetary policy (on February 7) that rate hikes are not imminent,” said Abheek Barua, chief economist at HDFC Bank.

Naidu upset as Budget ‘ignores’ A.P.

“They are underestimating Mr. Naidu’s political experience and testing his patience. It is not as if we will take a decision tomorrow. We might do it in phases, first raising the issue in Parliament, then pulling out the Ministers, resigning from Parliament and lastly saying goodbye to the alliance. What is the use of continuing in the alliance when it does not benefit the State,” he asked.

Meanwhile the State Cabinet too reportedly discussed the options before the TDP and the implications of severing ties with the BJP – including the flow of funds

from the Centre, especially for Polavaram, the national irrigation project, one of the few to get assured allocation.

The TDP government is under pressure from the Opposition YSR Congress Party and the Congress for failing to extract benefits from the Centre, starting with the Special Category Status.

Leaders of both the parties feel if the TDP had insisted and taken a firm stand on the SCS, the BJP would not have meted out such treatment. The TDP took things lying down for four long years, they say.

CBI files appeal in Bofors case

The contract for the guns was entered into on March 24, 1986, between the Government of India and M/s. AB Bofors after approval by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was also the Defence Minister.

The premier investigating agency alleged that a “mind-boggling sum” of ₹64 crore was paid to M/s AB Bofors and other individuals as “commission” in a procurement process which “tarnished the country’s reputation”. The gun deal was “sullied and vitiated and the government was cheated of legitimate monies payable to it,” the agency told the Supreme Court.

The CBI accused the UPA-I government for the delay in filing the present appeal against a scam which “jeo-

pardised national and public interest”.

The agency conveyed to the Supreme Court how it watched on helplessly as the accused persons went scot-free in 2005 without trial or punishment.

The agency said the primary reason for it to approach the Supreme Court in appeal is a development in 2017 which “fundamentally alters the landscape” in the Bofors scam case.

This “most significant development” is an interview given by Michael Hershman to an Indian TV channel. “In the said interview, Mr. Hershman has stated that he is in possession of material which would show the payment of bribes in the Bofors deal.”

Jallikattu pleas go to Constitution Bench

Though commonly used to protect the interests of minorities, Article 29(1) mandates that “any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same”.

The Constitution Bench would also look into whether the 2017 jallikattu and bull-lock-cart races laws would actually sub-serve the objective of “prevention” of cruelty to

animals under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960. The Bench would also consider whether the amended laws would ensure “the survival and well-being of the native breed of bulls”.

Finally, the Bench would examine if the new laws are “relatable” to Article 48 of the Constitution, which says it is an endeavour of the State to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on scientific lines.

Nasheed promises to contest polls again

The Supreme Court in its ruling observed that the earlier trials were a violation of the Constitution and international law. The apex court has ordered new trials.

In an official statement on Friday morning, the government said it would “vet and clarify” the ruling. On Friday evening, the international spokesperson at the President’s office, Ibrahim Hussain Shihab, said the administration had “shared its concerns” with the Chief Justice over the ruling.

In a press briefing held in Male, Attorney General Uz. Mohamed Anil assured the media that the administra-

tion was working with all relevant authorities of the state, to carry out the speedy implementation of the Supreme Court ruling. However, the government is yet to implement the order, sources in Male said.

India on Friday urged the Maldives government to “respect” the verdict. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also urged the Maldives to release the political prisoners.

Meanwhile, President Yameen dismissed the Commissioner of Police, Ahmed Areef.

(Inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)

FCRA changes will help BJP, Cong.

It will benefit parties held guilty by the Delhi High Court for receiving funds from Vedanta subsidiaries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government has proposed to amend the repealed Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 1976, retrospectively, a move that will benefit the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress held guilty by the Delhi High Court for receiving foreign funds from two subsidiaries of Vedanta, a U.K.-based company.

The Representation of the People Act and the FCRA bar political parties from receiving foreign funds.

In 2016, the government amended the FCRA through the Finance Bill route, allow-

ing foreign-origin companies to finance non-governmental organisations and clearing the way for donations to political parties by changing the definition of “foreign companies”.

The amendment, though done retrospectively, only made valid the foreign donations received after 2010, the year when the 1976 Act was amended.

The retrospective amendment did not apply to donations prior to 2010.

Retrospective effect
In a move to extend relief to the two parties, the government has again proposed an



amendment through the Finance Bill, 2018. It says, “Clause 217 of the Bill seeks to amend Section 236 of the Finance Act, 2016 which relates to amendment to sub-clause (vi) of clause (j) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Foreign Contribution (Regu-

lation) Act, 2010 effect from the 5th August, 1976 the date of commencement of the FCRA, 1976, which was repealed and re-enacted as the FCRA, 2010.”

The Hindu reported on May 10, 2017 that the Home Ministry had sought the Attorney-General’s opinion to amend the repealed Act.

Original provision
The original provision in the FCRA, which declared that any company with over 50% FDI was a foreign entity, was inconsistent with the view of the Finance and the Commerce Ministries, which treated companies based in

India and having Indian directors and employees as Indian subsidiaries.

The Supreme Court in November 2017 issued notice to the Centre on a plea by the Association for Democratic Reforms, a political watchdog, that challenged the amendment through the Finance Bill route.

It was on the organisation’s plea that the Delhi High Court asked the Home Ministry to initiate action against the two political parties. The offence attracted imprisonment of five years or fine or both to persons who assisted political parties to receive funds.

A mix of old schemes, says Sena

**STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI**

The Shiv Sena, an ally of the ruling National Democratic Alliance, said on Friday that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had merely repackaged old schemes in the Union Budget.

“The focus on the rural sector is a clear indication that the government was alarmed by the Gujarat poll results and realised that the rural population was moving away from it,” said an editorial in party mouthpiece *Saamana* on Friday. The actual implementation of the Budget would be a real test, it said.

Health scheme will be well-funded: Nadda

‘Families will no longer crumble under financial burden’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Calling it ‘historic’, ‘bold’ and ‘committed to the common man’, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda welcomed Budget 2018, which had seen an 11.5% increase in the allocation for the health sector.

Stating that the Budget would change the socio-economic scenario of the country and aid in increased productivity for the common man, the Minister told a press conference: “The Budget will spur growth and development. It is aimed at all sections of the country. This is a visionary and people-oriented budget.”

The Minister spoke about the National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover 10 crore households by providing an annual package of ₹5 lakh for hospitalisation needs.

“This will change the face of health care in India and we will no longer have families breaking down under the financial burden of medical care,” the Minister said. The government was working on the intricate details of the scheme and would come out with a definite plan

Launch on Aug. 15 or Oct. 2

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

The mega healthcare plan announced in the Budget to provide 10 crore poor families with insurance cover against hospitalisation will cost up to ₹12,000 crore annually.

It is likely to be launched on August 15 or October 2,

officials said on Friday.

The ‘National Health Protection Scheme’, dubbed as ‘Modicare’ and the world’s largest government healthcare programme, will be funded with 60% contribution from the Centre and the rest from the States, said NITI Aayog advisor Alok Kumar.

soon. “We are confident about the scheme. Finances will never be a problem. Details will be given out as soon as we are ready to implement it,” he said.

‘₹2,000 cr. kept aside’
The Minister said the Budget was progressing towards universal health coverage and noted: “We are looking towards going away from diseases-specific treatment to providing preventive healthcare. We seek the support of everyone to ensure that this scheme is a success.”

Asked who will pay the premium, Mr. Nadda said: “The government will pay the premium with the States’ share. ₹2,000 crore

Centre was picking up online Budget chatter

Could get insights into response to various announcements

**NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI**

As Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was delivering the Budget speech stood up on Thursday, a small unit set up by Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani was carrying out real-time monitoring of public online conversations around the word “Budget”.

The Budget speech spawned many talking points and reactions, much of which was tagged online by this group of some six IT professionals, with interesting results.

Monitoring impact
“We are basically monitoring online conversations on open forums like Twitter, public Facebook pages and comments on blogs, etc., for any chatter on government programmes and how they are being received in order to sharpen government communications. For example, during the Budget speech, while the volume of chatter on raising farm income was high among those who usually kept an interest in the subject, the health insurance scheme showed dots of conversation coming



up across the country. The volume shot up dramatically,” said a person involved in the project.

To the source
The tracking shows not just the volume of chatter but also breaks it down to geographical location and whether the comments are positive, negative or neutral.

What this would do, according to officials in the I&B Ministry, is give pointed directions to where government communication could be focussed and some veracity in the feedback.

“For example, when it came to announcing the standard deduction of ₹40,000 on health and transport expenses to salaried classes, it was prefaced by the Finance Minister that he would make no changes in

the personal income tax slabs. That overshadowed the later standard deduction announcement and a lot of the chatter was on how there was nothing for the middle class in the budget. For government communication therefore, it was an interesting input when talking about the Budget later on,” an official said.

‘Genuine feedback’
“This is just to arm you with genuine feedback so you don’t go in blind when talking about government programmes and how they are perceived.”

The reports of this unit are sent to departments concerned.

The unit was set up just this week and may expand its work later. In fact, there have been reports that a “social media communication hub” may be set up in regional centres including some districts, and that the Broadcast Engineering Consultant India Ltd, (BECIL), a PSU under the Ministry, had floated tenders for the supply of software for the project.

But it is not clear if the two projects are the same.

Budget caused stock crash: Rahul

Chidambaram says healthcare scheme is ‘kite flying without string’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On a day when the stock market plummeted, Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the bourses did not have confidence in the Modi government’s Budget and started a hashtag #BasEkAurSaal, meaning just one more year for the government to complete its term.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, on the other hand, compared the ambitious healthcare scheme to “kite flying without string”.

Referring to the fall in Sensex, Mr. Gandhi tweeted, “In parliamentary language, the Sensex just placed a solid



Rahul Gandhi

800 point No Confidence Motion against Modi’s budget. #BasEkAurSaal.”

Mr. Chidambaram too took to twitter to further his argument, made on Thursday, that the government had not provided budgetary

support for the healthcare scheme.

‘No allocation’
“Yesterday [Thursday], I had said that the new healthcare scheme is a *jumla* (mere claim) with no money provided in the budget. Today, [the Finance Minister] has admitted that no money has been provided and he will ‘raise money in the future’. Perfect jumla,” Mr. Chidambaram tweeted. “Scheme without money is like flying a kite without a string. The kite flyer will say that the kite is flying, but there will be no kite and nothing will be flying.”

Reacting to the proposed scheme, the Congress leader said, “The promise of Rs. 5 lakh per family for secondary and tertiary healthcare is a big *jumla*. The target group is 10 crore families. Assuming each family will avail of Rs 50,000 – one tenth of Rs 5 lakh – the amount required per year will be Rs 5 lakh crore.”

He argued that if the insurance companies paid the bill, the estimated premium at ₹5,000 to ₹15,000 per family would require an outgo from ₹50,000 crore to ₹1.5 lakh crore per year. “Is the Finance Minister serious,” Mr. Chidambaram asked.

Kasganj sparks ire in Rajya Sabha

Congress, AAP raise slogans against violence and the Delhi sealing drive

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Opposition forced two adjournments in the Rajya Sabha during the pre-lunch session on the communal clashes in Kasganj and the ongoing sealing drive in Delhi.

Immediately after the House met at 11 a.m., Samajwadi Party leader Ramgopal Yadav raised the issue of communal violence in the Uttar Pradesh city, accusing the State administration of spreading fear among the minorities.

Samajwadi Party members entered the Well of the House raising slogans to protest against the violence.



Finance Minister Arun Jaitley arriving at Parliament House for the Rajya Sabha session on Friday. **R.V. MOORTHY**

They were joined by Aam Aadmi Party members, forcing Deputy Chairman P.J. Kurien to adjourn the proceedings. “It is a serious matter. In Uttar Pradesh, minorities are being targeted and the

non-Muslims,” Mr. Yadav said.

When the House met for Question Hour after the first adjournment, the AAP members led by Sanjay Singh trooped into the Well again raising slogans, alleging that the sealing drive was being done at the behest of the Union government. The Congress and Trinamool members joined them.

Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said Delhi was the second home of all MPs and it was their duty to help its people. “If lakhs of people are being uprooted, the Central government is responsible. They should answer here,” he said.

Rajiv told Swedish PM to stop probe: CBI

‘Ambassador Oza was kept in the dark’

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI**

The CBI appeal in the Supreme Court on Friday mentions a telephone call made by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to his Swedish counterpart advising the latter to call off the Bofors scam probe at a particular point.

The appeal said Mr. Gandhi wanted the Swedish government to stop their investigation on the basis of a report submitted by Bofors on April 24, 1987. The report denied the role of any middlemen in the multi-crore gun deal.

The CBI said Mr. Gandhi’s request to the Swedish PM was despite the advice by Indian Ambassador B.M. Oza in Stockholm to persist with Swedish probe and not believe the Bofors report.

“The late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the PM, had a telephonic conversation with the Swedish PM, Mr. Carlsson. He told Mr. Carlsson that he had received the report of Bofors, which mentioned that there were no middlemen, and, therefore, there was no need for any further investigation by the Swedish government. It may be mentioned that what late Sh. Rajiv Gandhi told the Swedish Prime Minister Carlsson was just the contrary to what the government of India had requested through official channels,” the CBI appeal submitted to the Supreme Court.

It added: “All this took place despite the specific ad-



Rajiv Gandhi

vice of the Indian Ambassador in Sweden.” “In fact Ambassador Oza was kept in the dark with regard to this development,” the CBI submitted in its appeal filed more than 12 years after the Delhi HC quashed all proceedings in the Bofors case.

After Mr. Gandhi’s call, the CBI said, the Swedish government, accordingly, made a public announcement that there would not be any investigation as against the earlier announcement that they would conduct an official investigation.

But Ambassador Oza persisted in his stand for a continued probe until the Swedish PM made a clean breast of Mr. Gandhi’s call. Mr. Gandhi had to finally relent and reverse his position.

He sent a message to the Swedish PM on April 28, 1987 to the effect that “though facts furnished by Bofors tend to confirm the position that there were no middlemen, clarifications are necessary to set the controversy at rest”.



Manipur Governor calls for talks with rebels

IMPHAL
Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla on Friday appealed to the insurgent outfits to come to the negotiating table so that they could return to the mainstream. She was addressing the Assembly on the first day of the Budget Session. Asserting that the rehabilitation allowances to the surrendered insurgents would be increased, she said the doors for peace talks were open.

'Don't engage foreign firms for health scheme'

NEW DELHI
The RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch has cautioned the Centre against engaging foreign insurance companies for providing health cover to the poor under a flagship programme announced in the Budget. SJM co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said valuable resources of the country should be retained in India. PTI

Trinamool opposes pay hike for lawmakers

NEW DELHI
The Trinamool Congress on Friday said the party would oppose any move to increase the salary of MPs as it felt the lawmakers already earned enough. Other than the salary, MPs get allowances and a lot of amenities including accommodation in prime location in the capital, airfare, free calls and so on," Trinamool leader Derek O' Brien said.

Three soldiers die as avalanche hits outpost

SRINAGAR
Three soldiers were killed and one injured when an avalanche hit a border outpost in the Machil Sector in Kupwara, north Kashmir, on Friday. Preliminary reports said a post belonging to 21 Rajput came under an avalanche around 4.30 p.m. and four soldiers were declared missing. A search operation evacuated all those trapped. "However, one died on the spot and two others died on their way to hospital," said an official.

Pakistan official helped J&K protesters, says NIA

Staffer was expelled in 2016 on allegations of spying

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a charge sheet has said a Pakistan High Commission staffer, who was expelled in 2016 on allegations of spying, had helped persons carry out terrorist and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Several of these persons were arrested last year.

The charge sheet does not name the official but details the "pattern" of his meetings with separatist leaders that led to protests and violence in the Kashmir Valley.

The official, Mehboob Akhtar, was declared a *persona non grata* and sent back to Pakistan after he was caught by the Delhi police in October 2016 for allegedly receiv-

Congress may not name CM candidate for Rajasthan

Party to face Assembly polls 'under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi'

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The Congress will not project a chief ministerial face for the Rajasthan Assembly elections scheduled for later this year.

A day after the party swept the byelections in the State, winning one Assembly and two Lok Sabha seats, Congress general secretary Avinash Pandey, who handles Rajasthan, said the party would go to the polls under a "collective leadership".

"We will have a collective leadership under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi. Unless we get a majority, we cannot have a chief minister. So we will put up a joint effort and our focus is strengthening



Sachin Pilot

the organisation from the booth-level onwards," Mr. Pandey said in an interview to *The Hindu*.

Gujarat or Punjab?
In November's Gujarat elections – where the Congress put up its best performance

in the past 35 years – many believe the absence of a chief ministerial candidate cost the party dear. A section of the party believes that elections are increasingly becoming presidential in character and voters want to know the leader in advance. In Punjab last year, the Congress had announced Captain Amarinder Singh as the chief ministerial candidate.

Fear of infighting
One reason for playing it safe in Rajasthan is the problem of plenty in terms of aspirants – the choice of one over others may further intensify factionalism. Rajasthan Congress chief Sachin Pilot is seen as some-

one who has kept party workers busy, galvanised the organisation by continuously taking up issues against the Vasundhara Raje government and has strong appeal among the youth.

But former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who has been a two-term Chief Minister, is a seasoned administrator and had the image of being an approachable mass leader. Other contenders include leaders like C.P. Joshi, Namo Narayan Meena, Bhanwar Jitendra Singh and Girija Vyas.

"We are all united under Mr. Gandhi's leadership and every senior leader has been given tasks according to their strengths and interest," Mr. Pandey said.

After days of uncertainty, Nagaland heads for polls

Of the 11 parties that decided to boycott elections, 3 backed out

The election is very much on. Many have collected nomination papers

ABHIJIT SINHA
Chief Electoral Officer

bal Hohos and Civil Organisations, a conglomeration of tribal and civil groups, last month opposed the elections, demanding a solution to the 20-year-old Naga issue involving a few extremist outfits, especially the Isak Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland. No candidate, though, filed nomination on Friday, with five more days left for the process to end.

"The election is very much on. No one has submitted nominations, but many have collected nomination papers across the State," Chief Electoral Officer Abhijit Sinha said. Officials expect the candidates to make a last-minute rush after the dust settles. The parties have been under pressure from tribal NGOs to boycott the elections.

The BJP was the first to announce its participation on Thursday, sacking a leader who had signed on the election boycott pledge on behalf of the party.

The Congress followed suit and said: "Since all the parties are gearing up to take part in the polls, the Congress will soon be releasing the manifesto."

Who will protect the judges, asks Dave

Allegations on Loya death incorrect: Maharashtra govt.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave on Friday urged the Supreme Court not to fail its own judiciary, saying it will be a "great disservice" to the judicial brethren if the court does not seriously take the "discrepancies" in the statements about the death of B.H. Loya, the CBI judge who was hearing the Sohrabuddin Sheikh encounter case.

"Who will protect our judges," Mr. Dave asked the three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra on behalf of the Bombay Lawyers Association.

The association, along with others like activist Tehseen Poonawala, has moved the Supreme Court for an independent probe into the death of Loya on December 1, 2014, while he was in Nagpur to attend a wedding. He



B.H. Loya

was accompanied by colleagues, two of whom are Bombay High Court judges now.

'Witnesses lying'
Quoting from a Maharashtra police intelligence report, Mr. Dave accused four judges and other witnesses of "parrot-lying". He pointed to an alleged lack of initiative to inform Loya's family and how his body was reportedly sent home "alone" in an am-

bulance. "They said Loya was brought dead to the hospital, yet the hospital bills show he had undergone diet consultancy, neurosurgery, critical care. All this for a dead man? They did neurosurgery on a dead body? They say he was taken ill in his bed at the guest house. Yet he was wearing brown colour full shirt, blue jeans and belt. His wife is called at 5 a.m., yet the time of death is recorded as 6.15 a.m. ... His security was curiously withdrawn a few days before his death," Mr. Dave submitted.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Harish Salve, for Maharashtra government, termed the allegations levelled by Mr. Dave "absolutely incorrect" and an effort to "malign the judiciary."

The hearing will resume on February 5.

SC admits plea against poll bonds

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday admitted a petition filed by the CPI(M) and party general secretary Sitaram Yechury to strike down the government's Electoral Bond Scheme 2018 and amendments in the Finance Act, 2017, which allows for "unlimited donations from individuals and foreign companies to political parties without any record of the sources of funding".

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra asked the Centre, the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Election Commission of India to respond to the writ petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution by lawyers Raju Ramchandran and Shadaan Farasat. The admission of the case is an extraordinary relief for the party as Article 32 petitions are confined to private individuals.

Cong. MLA booked for abduction, rape

Complainant in jail on extortion charges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Police on Friday booked a Congress MLA, Hemant Katare, on charges of abduction and rape after a 21-year old journalism student, currently in jail for allegedly extorting money from Mr. Katare, filed a complaint.

Bhopal South Superintendent of Police Rahul Kumar Lodha said, "A case under IPC Sections 376 (rape), 342 (wrongful confinement) and 506 (criminal intimidation) was registered against Hemant Katare on the complaint of the woman, who is currently lodged in Bhopal Central Jail."

The woman was arrested on January 24 for trying to extort money from the Ater (Bhind) MLA. Mr. Lodha said that a case against Mr. Katare was registered after the student's complaint was forwarded to police authorities by the Superintendent of Bhopal jail.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Bhutan on Friday became the second country after Bangladesh to open a consulate in Guwahati.

"Bhutan's diplomatic relationship with Assam precedes that with India, and history refers to cordial relationship between the kings of Bhutan and medieval Assam. It is thus apt for us to set up our second consulate here in Guwahati," said Bhutan's Foreign Minister Damcho Dorji, after inaugurating the consulate along with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. Bhutan has had a consulate in Kolkata for years besides a High Commission in New Delhi.

"Bhutan's social, cultural and economic ties with Assam are deep-rooted, and Guwahati has been a prime destination for Bhutanese traders, students and patients referred by our doctors to hospitals in India," Mr. Dorji said.

India will work with Oli govt.: Sushma

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India was "looking forward" to work with the newly elected government of Nepal, the Ministry of External Affairs said here on Friday.

The message of cooperation was delivered by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj during her visit to Kathmandu.

"External Affairs Minister conveyed to all political leaders of Nepal that India is looking forward to working with the democratically elected government to take forward bilateral ties to newer heights for mutual benefit, and to support the Government of Nepal as per its priorities, in its endeavours for rapid economic growth and development," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Ms. Swaraj reached Kathmandu on Thursday beginning an engagement with the CPN-UML leader and Prime Minister-elect K.P. Sharma Oli who was expected to take oath soon.

The Hindu earlier reported that the visit coincided with the announcement of ₹650 crore for Nepal in the Union Budget.

CBI chargesheets Hooda, 33 others in Manesar land case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has filed a chargesheet against former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and 33 others in the Manesar land case. They have been accused of causing a loss of more than ₹1,500 crore to original land owners.

Among those named as accused are the then Chief Minister's Principal Secretary M.L. Tayal, then Additional Principal Secretary and former UPSC Member Chatter Singh and S. S. Dhill-



Bhupinder Singh Hooda

lon, the then Director in the Town and Country Planning department.

"The chargesheet has been filed under Sections

120-B, 420 and 471 of the IPC read with the relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. In all, 23 land owning companies of private builders have also been named as accused," said a CBI official.

According to the agency, the accused officials entered into a conspiracy with private builders to facilitate purchase of more than 400 acres of land in and around Manesar at throwaway prices, on the threat to the original owners that the government would acquire their land.

NBCC (INDIA) LIMITED
(Formerly National Building Construction Corporation Ltd.)
(A Government of India Enterprise)
CIN: 74890019005000333
Office of The Chief General Manager (CPG), NBCC Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Date: 01.02.2018

NBCC (India) Ltd. invites open tenders from eligible applicants who fulfil qualification criteria as stipulated in clause 2.0 of NIT for:- (1) NIT NO. NBCC / CPG / TDEPTK001 (1) / KAYASHTH002018/27; Construction of Ayaz Khan Office Building at Kochi, Kerala. Estimated Project Cost of this work is Rs. 34 Crores. Last date of submission of Bids: 23.02.2018. Completion period is 18 months. (2) NIT NO. NBCC/CPG/AP001/ CPET/ BANGLALORE/ 2018/128; Construction of R&D wing namely Advanced Polymer Design and Development Research Laboratory (APDRL), unit of Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPT), at Aerospace Park, Devanahalli, Bangalore. Estimated Project Cost of this work is Rs. 44.01 Crores. Last date of submission of Bid is 27.02.2018. Completion period is 18 months.

The tenderer bids will be available or vendible: www.tenderintanid.com/NBCC and www.eprocure.gov.in. Competitively/Anonymous to this publication if any, would appear only on the said websites and not be published.

Chief General Manager (CPG)

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer VJNL, Yettinahole
Project Division, No.1 Sakaleshpur -573134
NO. EE/VJNL/YPDNI/ROAD/TND-16/2017-18/ 3362
Dated: 02-02-2018

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)(on E-procurement basis)
Percentage rate Tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, VJNL Bengaluru, from the eligible VJNL/KNL category III and above contractors for the 2 Road works and VJNL/KNL category II and above contractors for the 1 Road work under Yettinahole Project. The bid shall be submitted in Two Cover System containing the technical bid and financial bid. The blank tender documents can be obtained and submitted through website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. The amount put to tender of the 3 road works are Rs. 299.51 Lakhs, Rs. 489.09 Lakhs and Rs. 608.82 Lakhs, indent No: VJNL/2017-18/RD/WORK_INDENT996, VJNL/2017-18/RD/WORK_INDENT973 and VJNL/2017-18/RD/WORK_INDENT645 respectively. Contractors can access the bid documents for above works from 05-02-2018 to 19-02-2018 upto.17:00 Hrs. Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Division No.1, Sakaleshpur on 21-02-2018,11: 00 Hrs onwards. Financial bid of the qualified bidder will be opened after obtaining approval to technical bid from competent authority. The officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
VJNL, YP Division, No.1, Sakaleshpura

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT.OF NCT DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VII
NSTP CORONATION PILLAR DELHI-110009
E-mail ID: eesdw7.djb@nic.in, Phone No 011-27602302

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO: 15 (2017-18)

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution	Last date/time for receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	SITC of Sewage Submersible Pumps at Nehru Vihar Sewage Pumping Station.	Item Rate	64000/-	31.01.2018 Tender ID No. is 2018_DJB_144735_1	12.02.2018 at 12.15 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Issued By P.R.O.(Water)
Advt. No. J.S.V.2017-18/486

Executive Engineer (SDW) VII

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur.

RISL invites bids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIS No / Date	Particulars	Estimated Cost/TEND	Start date
9707/25.01.2018	Selection of Third Party Auditor (TPA) for Audit of Bhumashan & s-Mits Applications.	Rs. 175 Lacs/ Rs. 3.95 Lacs	30.01.2018

Details can be seen on the websites <http://www.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://malrajasthan.gov.in>. Bids are to be submitted through <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.
Raj Schemes/CI/171235 Chairman & Managing Director

Government of Odisha
Department of Tourism & Culture (Tourism)
No. 1361 / TSM, Bhubaneswar, Dtd. 02.02.2018
T TSP-II (F) 20/2018

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed and registered firms / agencies / media houses for supply of non-erasable Pen Drive (Memory Stick) - credit card type for Odisha Tourism promotional activities in and outside the country. The last date for submission of Tender is 21.02.2018 at 4.00 PM.

The Terms of Reference shall be collected from Department of Tourism, Parayatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar or may be downloaded from our website www.odishatourism.gov.in

17005/11/0656/1718 Director & Addl. Secretary to Govt.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At:- Ambapua, Po:- Engineering School Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011)
E-Mail:- serwbpr2084@yahoo.co.in Tel/FAX:- 0680-2404287

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH "e-Procurement"
ADB Assisted PMGSY Packages
Identification No. Online Tender/25-2017-18/PMGSY(ADB)/BPR
ADB// 476 // RWG // BAM // Dated, 30.01.2018

Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur on behalf of the employer invited online item rates bids from eligible bidders for Construction of Road and C.D. works including maintenance for 5 years of Rural Roads (RCIP-2 Tr-I (2017-18) Batch-II) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (ADB Rural Connectivity investment programme).

Period of Availability of tenders online :- The details are as below.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Packages	Availability of tender online for bidding	
			From	To
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur	Online Tender/ 25-2017-18/ PMGSY(ADB)/BPR	02 (Two)	08.02.2018 at 11.00 A.M.	19.02.2018 at 3.00 P.M.

One PDF file is created under Cover-II i.e. Envelope for Financial Bid with the heading "Letter of Financial Bid" and "Summary of Bill of Quantities". The Bidder will upload "Letter of Financial Bid" and "Summary of Bill of Quantities" in PDF format with their Bid as per requirement of SBO.

Key dates are:

1. Submission of Original Bid Security Instrument, Bid Submission Fee & Original Affidavit.	From 15.02.2018 at 11.00 A.M. to 19.02.2018 at 3.30 P.M.
2. Opening of "Bid Security" (Bid Security Instrument, Bid Submission Fee & Original Affidavit) & Technical Bid	19.02.2018 at 3.30 P.M.
3. Opening of Financial Bid	28.02.2018 at 11.00 A.M.

Detailed NIS, other details and corrigendum if any can be viewed on website www.pmsgsyenders.gov.in

The Original EMD, DD towards paper cost, Affidavit regarding Correctness in a sealed cover shall be physically furnished by the tenderer in original before the Procurement Officer (Superintending Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur) within the specified period as mentioned in the NIT, otherwise his tender will entail rejection and blacklist of his Licence.

1334-Q: Sd/- J.Beura
250711/11/0049/1718 Superintending Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur.

10 WORLD

House Republicans release secret memo

It accuses officials at FBI and the Justice Department of bias against team Trump in the early stages of Russia investigation

EILEEN SULLIVAN
WASHINGTON

House Republicans released a previously secret memo on Friday in which they accused senior officials at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Justice Department of bias in the early stages of the Russia investigation.

The House Intelligence Committee made the memo public after a week of pleading from senior national security officials not to disclose the classified details, reading it aloud on a conference call with reporters after President Donald Trump declassified the memo.

“A lot of people should be ashamed of themselves and much worse than that,” Mr. Trump said on Friday.

The memo alleges that senior government officials favoured Democrats over Republicans and accuses federal law enforcement offi-



Divided we stand: A file photo of U.S. President Donald Trump with Attorney General Jeff Sessions and FBI Director Christopher Wray. ■ REUTERS

cials of abusing their authorities when they sought permission to surveil a former Trump campaign adviser, Carter Page. Democrats say it is a Republican attempt to push a narrative that would undercut the investigation

into Russia’s 2016 election meddling and possible coordination with the Trump campaign.

Earlier on Friday, Mr. Trump said top officials and investigators at the FBI and the Justice Department have

“politicised the sacred investigative process.”

The early-morning Twitter post reinforced reports that Mr. Trump, in allowing the Republican memo to be released, is seeking to clean house in the upper ranks of

A lot of people should be ashamed of themselves and much worse than that

DONALD TRUMP
U.S. President

the FBI and the Justice Department, even at the risk of losing his own FBI director, Christopher A. Wray. Earlier this week, the FBI made an unusual public plea not to release the document, which could reveal classified sources and methods.

Security concerns

Mr. Trump had an opportunity to block the memo, which his own top national security officials requested because of national security concerns. The document was written by aides to Rep. Devin Nunes of California, the Republican Chairman of the House Intelligence Commit-

tee who has been an avid supporter of Mr. Trump.

In response to Mr. Trump’s Twitter post, Rep. Adam B. Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said it is unthinkable that the top elected official in the U.S. would release classified information to attack the FBI. Mr. Trump has consistently criticised the FBI and the Justice Department while asking senior officials for loyalty. The President has also denounced the Russian investigation and called it a hoax and a witch hunt.

Mr. Schiff and other Democrats on the committee drafted their own memo, a rebuttal they say adds context to the Republican document. House Speaker Paul Ryan supported the release of that second memo “in favour of greater transparency”. ■ NY TIMES

‘British press focusses on negative reports on India’

Envoy says country’s success story is missing in coverage

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

The British press focussed too much on negative stories about India, India’s High Commissioner in London Y.K. Sinha said at an event in Parliament this week, urging parliamentarians and others in both countries to become champions of a stronger bilateral relationship.

Pointing to the *The Times*, the *Guardian* and the *Financial Times* (the last of which he said had been very bullish on India until very recently), he said stories about India focussed on negative angles. “Where is India’s success story? Why is everyone queuing up to assiduously woo India? there must be a reason. There is something right happening in India and I’m afraid that story is not being well publicised,” he said at an event organised on the contribution of Indian companies in Britain.

Despite India being set to grow at 7.1% this year and 7.8% next year, it was still being criticised for not growing fast enough, said Mr. Sinha.



Y.K. Sinha

“India is the story of today and it will be the story of tomorrow... Engaging India is extremely important.” The High Commissioner said that while India and Britain’s long history could be seen as an advantage, it also could be a disadvantage. “People here feel they know India well but I’m afraid they don’t,” he said.

His emphasis on the bilateral relationship was echoed by Baron O’Neill, the economist who coined the phrase BRICS. “India could do so much better,” he said, arguing that given demographic trends, the country could be growing at 12.5%.

“Between 2015 and 2035

just the increase in India’s working age population will be bigger than the combined working population of the four largest EU countries... if that translates into people actually having jobs... in my judgment, India could easily repeat in the next 20 years at least what China has done in the past 30 years and grow by double digits... They need to do more stuff in order to achieve this,” he said.

PM’s U.K. visit

The High Commissioner also highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s forthcoming visit to Britain – which will combine the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London in April and a bilateral visit.

The Commonwealth had until recently suffered from “benign neglect”, he said. As Britain prepared to leave the EU it was time for the country and others to look towards the Commonwealth not just as “an old boy’s club to talk about shared legacies of the past...we have to be forward looking,” said the High Commissioner.

Iran arrests 29 anti-hijab protesters

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Tehran police have arrested 29 women for appearing in public without a headscarf as protests against the dress code, in force since the Islamic revolution of 1979, intensified, Iranian media reported on Friday.

Those arrested were accused of public order offences and referred to the state prosecutor’s office, the Fars, ILNA and Tasnim news agencies reported without elaborating.

Chief prosecutor Mohammad Jafar Montazeri played down the escalating protests on Wednesday, saying they were “trivial” and “childish” moves possibly incited by foreigners. He had been asked about a woman detained earlier this week for standing on a pillar box in a busy street waving her headscarf on the end of a stick.

Images of at least 11 women protesting the same way had been shared widely on social media.

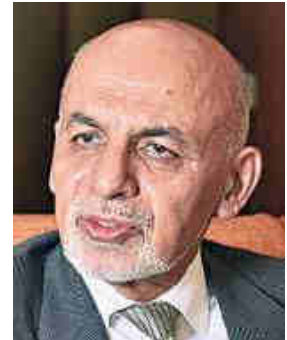
Mr. Montazeri said those flouting “hijab” rules must have been encouraged by outsiders.

Ghani blames Pak. for blasts

The centre of Taliban terrorism is in Pakistan, says Afghanistan President

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL

The Afghan President on Friday slammed Pakistan, blaming it for a wave of massive deadly attacks that have ravaged his nation recently and accusing Islamabad of harboring the Taliban.



Ashraf Ghani

In a televised speech to the nation, Ashraf Ghani insisted the “centre of Taliban terrorism is in Pakistan” and demanded that authorities in the neighboring country “show some concrete action to rid their territory of insurgents.”

Mr. Ghani, flanked by Afghanistan’s top Islamic clerics, also urged those among the Taliban who wanted to

talk peace with the government to separate themselves from those who want only to fight. On Wednesday, Afghan officials visited Pakistan with what they describe as evidence of Taliban attacks

emanating from militant training centres in Pakistan. Afghanistan’s Intelligence Chief Masoom Stanikzai and Interior Minister Wais Ahmed Barmak presented documentation and confessions from arrested insurgents claiming to have been trained in Islamic seminaries in Pakistan. “The Afghan nation is waiting for clear action” from Pakistan, said Mr. Ghani.

Islamabad’s response

Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua, along with senior military and security officials, will travel to Kabul on Saturday with Islamabad’s response, after review-

ing the Afghan documents. Pakistan has denied providing sanctuaries to militants. On Friday, Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it stands with Afghanistan “in fighting the menace of terrorism.”

The Ministry’s statement noted that Pakistan has erected 975 security posts along the porous border with Afghanistan, while Kabul set up only 218.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ghani said he has ordered a wide-reaching review of Kabul’s security following massive deadly attacks in recent weeks that have killed nearly 200 and wounded hundreds more.

ELSEWHERE



Fidel’s son commits suicide: State media

HAVANA

The eldest son of the late Cuban President Fidel Castro committed suicide on Thursday, State media reported. He was 68-years-old. “Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, who had been treated by a group of doctors for several months due to deep depression, took his life this morning,” Cuban newspaper *Granma* reported. ■ AFP

London mosque attacker gets life sentence

LONDON

A Briton who deliberately drove a van into a group of worshippers near a London mosque, killing one man, was on Friday sentenced to life in prison with a minimum 43-year term. Darren Osborne, 48, was found guilty of murdering 51-year-old Makram Ali and trying to kill others in Finsbury Park in the June 19 attack. ■ AFP

Ex-head of Lanka bank suspect in bond scam

COLOMBO

The former head of Sri Lanka’s central bank was named in court on Friday as a key suspect in a multi-million dollar bond scam. Arjuna Mahendran, a Singapore national of Sri Lankan origin, was asked to present himself to police before February 15 to respond to charges under the State Property Act. ■ AFP

China asks microblogs to tighten web policing

Says platforms have allowed the spread of vulgar content

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China on Friday ordered the country’s microblog operators to establish mechanisms to remove false information, in the latest move by authorities to tighten web policing.

The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) said the Twitter-like microblog platforms had allowed the spread of pornographic, vulgar and fraudulent content.

In addition to making sure to remove such content, companies should also keep a copy of what users post for at least six months, the CAC said in an online statement.

“Microblogging service providers shall play an active role in promoting economic



Sina Weibo already uses automated scans and censorship teams. ■ REUTERS

development and serving the general public by promoting the core values of socialism,” it said. The statement did not go into any detail on what the new mechanisms should include.

China tightly controls the Internet through a censorship system known as the

“Great Firewall” and closely monitors social media networks for sensitive content.

Regulations in force since 2000 say websites are responsible for “ensuring the legality of any information” posted on their platforms.

China’s leading microblogging website by far, Sina Weibo, already uses automated scans and censorship teams to remove inappropriate content, but has not disclosed how many employees are involved in the work.

Regulations that came into force last June require online platforms to get a licence to post news reports about the government, economy, military, foreign affairs, and social issues.

Father of 3 abuse victims lunges at Nassar in court

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CHICAGO

The father of three sexual abuse victims lunged at Larry Nassar in court on Friday, bringing the former U.S.A. Gymnastics doctor’s final sentencing hearing to an abrupt halt while order was restored.

Randall Margraves suddenly hurled himself to-

wards Nassar after two of his three daughters testified in a court in Charlotte, Michigan, to their abuse at the doctor’s hands.

Three sheriff’s deputies tackled Mr. Margraves, and Nassar was taken out of the courtroom.

“What if this happened to you guys?” Mr. Margraves said while being escorted

out. The hearing later resumed with an appeal for calm by judge Janice Cunningham.

The disruption came on the second day of Nassar’s final sentencing hearing as dozens of women waited for their turn to tell the court of the abuse they suffered in the guise of medical treatment.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
“e”. PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : genodisha.bbcr@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-42 / 2017-18

1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road / Bridge works as mentioned below:
2. Nature of work : Road / Bridge works
3. No. of work : 17 Nos.
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : Super Class
6. Availability of bid document : From 10.00 A.M. of 02-02-2018 to 03.00 P.M. of 27-02-2018
7. Date of opening of bid : 01-28-02-2018 at 11.30 AM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tenders.odisha.gov.in>. Any advertisement / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

24117/17/0111/1718 Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER:
SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERNAMPUR
Phone: 0680-2281592, FAX: 0680-2281592, e-mail: seepcb@yashoo.co.in

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

Bid Identification No. S.E., S.C (R&B)-BAM-14/2017-18
No.241 / J. Dated : 30.01.2018

1. The Superintending Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building / Road works as detailed in the table below:
2. Nature of work : Building (Composites) / Road works
3. No. of work : 05 Nos.
4. Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/- (online)
5. Class of Contractor : 'B', 'A' & Special Class
6. Availability of Bid document : From 12.02.2018 10.00 AM to 27.02.2018 4.00 PM
7. Date of Opening of Bid : 28.02.2018 at 11.30 A.M.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
9. Any advertisement / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

241523/17/0020/1718 Superintending Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur.

COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LTD.
CIAL/COM/LIC 63/ 14799 03-02-2018

TENDER NOTICE
RETAIL SHOPS

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible agencies for operating Retail Shops in the Security Hold Area of the New Domestic Terminal(T1) at Cochin International Airport. For further details, please log on to www.cial.aero or contact 0484 2610115(Extn:2614, 3598) / Mob:9539701512.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

IISER
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (IISER TVM)
(Under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India)
Manipalalaya P.O., Thiruvandrum - 695 016

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed and Super-scribed Two-Part Tenders are invited from well reputed sources for (i) Thermal CVD system for MoS2 growth with safety cabinet (Retender)

Due Date : 26th February 2018 (04.00 PM)

Details are available at website : www.iisertvm.ac.in, <https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp>

REGISTRAR

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
JALA BHAVAN, No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Ph: 080 - 41106507 - 18, Fax: 080 - 41106504

No. KWB/TEC/DCD-WTA-4/AE-SUGD-CTD Amrut /2585/2017-18 Date: 1-2-2018
Work Indent No: KUWSDB/2017-18/WS/WORK INDENT1993

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Procurement portal only)

Item-rate Tenders for the following works are invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement from eligible Agency/Contractors as detailed below:

Name of work: Providing sewer house service connections with RCC pre-cast receiving chamber, water supply plumbing work, sanitary works, electrification and allied works in STP premises including operation and maintenance of the assets built under Part I and Part II of this contract for five years under additional grants of AMRUT in Chitradurga city.

PART-I: Providing UGD House service Connections with RCC pre-cast Receiving chamber, water supply with borewell, plumbing work, Borewell recharge, sanitary works and allied works in STP premises.

PART-II: Providing submersible pumpset, electrification of STP premises and providing sewer cleaning equipment.

Part III: Operation and maintenance of assets built under part I and part II of this contract for a period of five years including defect liability period of one year under additional grants of AMRUT for Chitradurga city.

Approximate value of work (Rs.) : **Rs. Rs. 4,49,35,455/-**
Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs. 6,75,000/-**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1. Document will be available from	02-02-2018 from 10.30 hours
2. Last Date and Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications	14.02.2018 upto 17.30 hours
3. Pre-Bid meeting	15-02-2018 at 11.00 Hours
4. Last date and time for receipt of Tenders	03-03-2018 upto 17.30 hours
5. Date and time for opening of Technical bid	08-03-2018 after 11.00 hours
6. Date and time for opening of Financial bid	13-03-2018 after 11.00 hours

For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru, may please be contacted or log on to website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or e-Procurement helpdesk 91 80 2237 1090, 2237 3788, email support: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (B), KUWS&D Board, Bengaluru

MARKET WATCH		
	02-02-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	35,067	-2.34
US Dollar	64.06	-0.06
Brent oil	68.30	-0.51

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	417.95	-10.80
Ambuja Cements	259.55	-6.90
Asian Paints	1137.90	-15.10
Aurobindo Pharma	605.45	-5.75
Axis Bank	564.90	-27.90
Bajaj Auto	3241.30	-171.65
Bajaj Finance	1628.90	-100.55
Bharti Airtel	422.35	-16.05
Bosch	19474.40	-43.45
BPCL	477.15	-13.20
Cipla	581.15	-5.90
Coal India	290.35	-5.25
Dr Reddys Lab	2123.55	-34.40
Eicher Motors	27811.75	-235.60
GAIL (India)	466.45	-19.80
HCL Tech	990.90	6.00
HDFC	1903.85	-63.70
HDFC Bank	1948.00	-43.15
Hero MotoCorp	3623.45	-109.50
Hindalco	249.85	-6.40
HPCL	374.50	-17.85
Hind Unilever	1372.20	0.95
Indiabulls HFL	1319.60	-57.85
ICICI Bank	335.10	-11.10
IndusInd Bank	1761.30	-34.15
Bharti Infratel	344.85	-2.00
Infosys	1143.25	-1.35
Indian OilCorp	408.65	-9.25
ITC	275.35	0.05
Kotak Bank	1085.95	-35.00
L&T	1415.45	-40.15
Lupin	847.00	-13.40
M&M	770.25	-28.50
Mauriti Suzuki	8990.60	-411.25
NTPC	165.20	-3.85
ONGC	192.70	-2.20
PowerGrid Corp	192.90	-1.95
Reliance Ind	904.35	-39.50
State Bank	297.35	-8.70
Sun Pharma	551.20	-3.10
Tata Motors	383.75	-9.90
Tata Steel	670.45	-26.30
TCS	3153.65	15.05
Tech Mahindra	619.45	8.40
UltraTech Cement	4179.45	-212.00
UPL	733.05	-25.80
Vedanta	334.30	-7.15
Wipro	300.60	-0.15
YES Bank	349.05	-10.85
Zee Entertainment	586.10	-8.85

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 02		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	63.86	64.18
Euro	79.75	80.16
British Pound	90.81	91.27
Japanese Yen (100)	58.12	58.42
Chinese Yuan	10.16	10.22
Swiss Franc	68.70	69.05
Singapore Dollar	48.59	48.85
Canadian Dollar	51.90	52.17
Malaysian Ringgit	16.43	16.52
Source: Indian Bank		

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
February 02, rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	42.40	(42.50)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2,893	(2,918)

INTERVIEW | SUBHASH CHANDRA GARG

‘We are on a solid fiscal consolidation path’

LTCCG tax: ‘There should be no asset class which does not suffer taxation’

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN MANOJIT SAHA
Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, discusses implications of the various Budget proposals in an interview. Edited excerpts:

Is the fiscal deficit target of 3% by 2021 an aggressive target, because the N.K. Singh panel had recommended a deadline of 2022-23?
■ There is a small difference. The N.K. Singh committee said 2.5% by 2022-23. We are talking 3% by 2021. The 2.5% is not what the government considers is a desirable level of fiscal deficit in the country, so we have adopted 3%.

And we have now put a provision in the Finance Bill that this is a statutory binding target for the government. The target is 3% by 2021. So, the fiscal policy statement says that in 2019-20, we'll go to 3.1%, and in 2020-21, we'll go to 3%. But the government may aim to achieve 3% in 2019-20 itself. That is in the future, but we are on a very solid consolidation path.

So the N.K. Singh panel's recommendation of 2.5% fiscal deficit is not a comfortable level for the government...
■ We are not accepting that... 3% is the right level.

But there is a concern in the market; bond yields also shot up in early trade...
■ Bond yields are down. In the morning they were up, but right now they have come down. I think the bond market is realising the utmost seriousness the government attaches to fiscal consolidation. And the government is willing to

bind itself through statutory rules and law. The path of 3.5% for this year was given for many months. We had already announced additional borrowings, 11 months' revenue from GST... Next year's 3.3% is a very credible target.

Why do you say so? The Centre has budgeted a lot of expenditure next year...
■ Number one, we have made realistic revenue and non-tax revenue projections. The expenditure is also factored in. Almost every expenditure which is required, except the MSP-related decision and the health scheme. But, as some people would say, the disinvestment target is understated. We can do more. So, we are certain that these two expenditures can be very well accommodated or we will have some more income on the revenue side that will take care of this.

How do you plan to fund those expenditures?
■ The health and education cess has been increased, we have put a social welfare surcharge of 10% on customs. These two are intended to fund the health protection scheme and other expenditures on the social protection side.

What signal is the government sending to investors with long term capital gains tax?
It [LTCCG] was introduced because there should not be any asset class which does not suffer any taxation while all other classes suffer. The equities have given good returns so they should also contribute.

What will be the impact on inflation of higher MSP?
■ Food prices indeed contri-



We have budgeted ₹4,000 crore less for the kerosene subsidy

buted to inflation, and the impact is more in retail inflation than in wholesale inflation. Food prices have a relatively lesser weight in wholesale inflation, which is only at 3%, while retail inflation is 5%. The difference is seen because of food prices. I think we need to know that this announcement will come into effect when the Kharif crops enter the market, which is after September and October. So, in the first six months, we do not expect any impact.

However, it may have an induced effect if you think that the price of, say, pulses will go up since they are expected to get a higher price later. But I am not too concerned about that.

Could this lead the RBI to changing tack in its monetary policy review next week?
■ That's for RBI to take a decision. RBI has a mandate.

There is a risk from oil prices too...
■ The risk is... if [oil prices] go up and those increases are not passed on. Then it impacts the fisc. The direct impact comes from the LPG

subsidy and the kerosene subsidy. It was ₹25,000 crore for the current year, and is budgeted at ₹29,000 crore for the next year. Kerosene is on its way out. A lot of replacement [is] through LPG. So, the kerosene subsidy... we have budgeted ₹4,000 crore less. LPG prices are not so directly related to oil prices. So, that may not impact us as comprehensively.

What would be a comfort level in oil prices?
■ It's difficult to say. Oil is an essential commodity, which we have to import for our consumption whether we are comfortable or not comfortable.

Mr. Jaitley had said we were close to the upper bound of the comfort level...
■ Of course! You look at it from the consumer point of view. What the Finance Minister was referring to was that at a certain level, passing on entirely the burden of the increases hurts the customers. He had made a statement in Parliament when the excise duty was increased that we were taking those measures because the prices have gone down but if they were to rise to this level again, we would consider cutting them. That's what he was referring to.

For FY18, there has been a large fall in dividend revenue, profit receipts from central public sector enterprises. Even interest income has taken a hit...
■ In interest income, there is not much of a fall. State governments' loans are coming down as the Centre has stopped giving loans to them. Dividends... of course, because we have received much less from the RBI.

Foolproof e-way bill urged after deferment

Centre to reintroduce measure in 'next few weeks': Adhia

LALATENDU MISHRA MUMBAI
A day after the Centre deferred February 1 rollout of the e-way bill in the wake of 'technological glitches' that left trucks stranded for hours across the country, transporters urged the Centre to fix all issues before introducing the measure.

"We have raised several issues with the GST Commissioner and we hope the government addresses them first rather than implementing without preparedness," said Abhishek Gupta, Treasurer, Bombay Goods Transport Association.

"Lakhs of trucks were stranded across the country and many companies and truckers were not aware of the decision," he said, referring to the government's decision, late on Thursday, to



Lakhs of trucks were stranded on Thursday.

suspend the rollout. The e-way bill portal had crashed on Thursday leaving transporters waiting in vain for hours to generate the bills.

'Back to normal'
"Today things are back to normal," said Ramesh Agarwal, Chairman, Agarwal Movers Group. "Government took a wise decision to put it [rollout] on hold. Other-

wise by Saturday lots of factories would have closed down," he said.

The Centre's use of twitter to announce the decision added to the confusion.

"It will take time in India to accept information disseminated through twitter," said Devendra Patne, CEO, DTIX.org, a transport industry initiative. "Lots of people did not give credence to it and waited for logging into the portal."

S.R. Hatti, VP of VRL Logistics in Bengaluru, said the firm had started moving goods from Friday morning with normal invoices as all States were accepting them.

Finance Secretary Has-mukh Adhia told PTI the measure would be reintroduced in the "next few weeks" after the system was fully ready.

Make broadband access affordable: TRAI

'Policy must eye \$100 bn investment'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The proposed National Telecom Policy should aim at enabling wireless broadband access at affordable prices to 90% of the population while attracting investments worth \$100 billion by 2022, telecom regulator TRAI said on Friday.

In its recommendations on the objectives, mission and vision for the new policy, the regulator said the policy should aim at creating two million additional jobs in the ICT sector by 2022. The recommenda-

tions follow a DoT letter in August last year, requesting TRAI to give its policy inputs for formulation of National Telecom Policy 2018, post which discussions were held with stakeholders, including telecom service providers (TSPs) and content providers.

The government aims to finalise the NTP 2018 by March end. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) said the policy should put in place an ombudsman-based consumer grievance redressal mechanism by end 2018.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Malaysia Airports Holding Berhad will sell its entire 11% stake in GIAL, which operates the Hyderabad international aerodrome, for ₹484 crore, according to a regulatory filing.

GMR Airports Ltd. has entered into an agreement to acquire 11% stake from Malaysia Airports Holding Berhad and its subsidiary MAHB (Mauritius) Pvt Ltd.

GMR Airports will purchase 4,15,80,000 shares from the two Malaysian entities for a consideration of \$76 million, the filing said.

Centre's plan may boost farmers' solar power use

Under ₹1.4 lakh-cr. KUSUM, excess power can be sold to grid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Centre has announced a ₹1.4 lakh-crore scheme for promoting decentralised solar power production of up to 28,250 MW to help farmers, according to R. K. Singh, Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy.

The Centre will spend ₹48,000 crore on the ten-year scheme which was announced in the Union Budget 2018-19. *Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan* or KUSUM scheme would provide extra income to farmers, by giving them an option to sell additional power to the grid through solar power projects set up on their barren lands, the Minister said.

It would help in de-dieselling the sector as also the DISCOMS, he said.



India had about 30 million farm pumps that include 10 million pumps running on diesel.

'Positive outcomes'
The Minister said the positive outcomes that are expected when the scheme is fully implemented across the country include promotion of decentralised solar power production, reduction of transmission losses as well as providing support

to the financial health of DISCOMS by reducing the subsidy burden to the agriculture sector. The scheme would also promote energy efficiency and water conservation and provide water security to farmers.

The components of the scheme include building 10,000 MW solar plants on barren lands and providing sops to DISCOMS to purchase the electricity produced, 'solarising' existing pumps of 7250 MW as well as government tube wells with a capacity of 8250 MW and distributing 17.5 lakh solar pumps.

The 60% subsidy on the solar pumps provided to farmers will be shared between the Centre and the States while 30% would be provided through bank loans. The balance cost has to be borne by the farmers.

'Target 50% power from renewables'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Coal Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said India should strive for 50% of its power generation capacity from renewable sources by 2030 on the back of technological advancements in solar and wind energy.

"With technological advancements in solar power and large turbines in wind energy, the country should strive for 50% generation capacity from renewable sources by 2030," Mr. Goyal said while addressing the seventh Indian Energy Congress.

He further said India is the first major country which is fast transitioning into a new era of carbon-free energy for its citizens.

The Minister also said the country is set to exceed the target of 175 GW in renewable energy and touch 200 GW by 2022.

Alibaba leads \$300 mn funding in bigbasket

The Bengaluru-based online grocery store plans to deploy funds for expansion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce giant, has led a \$300 million funding round in India's online grocery start-up bigbasket.com. The Bengaluru-based bigbasket said other investors, including Abraaj Capital, Sands Capital and International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, also participated in the round.

Farmer networks

The firm said it planned to use the money to build farmer networks, expand deeper into existing cities and become the most preferred employer for blue-collar jobs. "The funds will be directed towards bettering our technological, analytical, and infrastructural prowess,



Jobs in basket: The firm says it intends to become a leading employer of blue-collar workers in India. ■ REUTERS

all of which will enable the company to move up the curve," said Hari Menon, CEO and co-founder, bigbasket, in a statement.

Mr. Menon co-founded bigbasket in December 2011 in Bengaluru along with V. S. Sudhakar, Vipul Parekh, V. S. Ramesh and Abhinay Choudhari. The team had

earlier set up India's first e-commerce site FabMart.com in 1999. They later established Fabmall-Trinethra which expanded to a chain of more than 200 grocery supermarket stores in southern India. Bigbasket said India's retail market is now worth more than \$900 billion with grocery shopping

accounting for about \$600 billion. Rather than focusing on expansion into more cities, the company said it was planning to dig deeper into the cities where it already had a foothold.

Mr. Menon said the firm was currently partnering about 1,800 farmers throughout the country and would increase the number to 3,000. In addition to collaborating with farmers and gaining a larger customer base, the company said the third big priority was to become a leading employer of blue-collar workers in the country. The current employee strength of bigbasket is 16,000.

Bigbasket, which operates in 30 cities in the country, said it closed the previous fiscal year (2016-17) with ₹1,410 crore in revenue.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(Material Management & Contract Wing)
New Power House, Industrial Area, Jodhpur-342003. Phone: 0291-2743223, Fax: 0291-6746339
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
E-Procurement Short Term Tenders are invited for supply of 33 KV BOD A Isolator with Post Insulators without Earth Blades under TN-1395 (UBN - JVV1718GLOB00365)
Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for all interested tenders are available on our website at: www.jodvn.com and also at: http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
For Electricity Complaints Toll free No. 1800 160 6045

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
COMMISSIONERATE OF AGRICULTURE
PANT KRISHI BHAWAN, JAIPUR
Phone- 0141 2227365 Ext-267, e-mail-acp.agri@rajasthan.gov.in
No.F 36 (77) NeGP-AMD/CO/2017-18/5331 Date: 23-01-18
BID NOTICE
The Department of Agriculture invites Bids for empanelment of Agency/ Service Provider to provide Data Entry Operator under National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A).
The Service Provider, authorized agencies may submit their proposals along with **Security Deposit latest by February 09th, 2018 upto 1.30 p.m.** For detailed Bid Documents may refer to Websites: <http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://dipr.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://agriculture.rajjasthan.gov.in> etc. in order to prepare submissions. We look forward to receiving your proposal.
UBN - AGR1718SLOB00326
(Vikas Sitaramji Bhale)
Commissioner, Agriculture
Rajasthan
DIPRC/1023

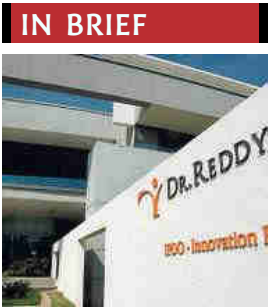
KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
(TENDER NOTICE)
Tender No : RT-5/2017-2018/CE/JICA, JICA - Meenad and Adjoining Villages - Distribution system - Balance works - Package P3 RRI - Supplying, conveying, laying, jointing and testing of various sizes of DI and uPVC pipes, specials, valves etc. EMD - Rs. 5,00,000 Form Price - Rs. 16,800, Last Date for submitting Tender: 08-03-2018 03:00 pm.
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.tenders.kerala.gov.in
Phone : 0471-2326136 KWA-JB-GL-6-683-2017-18
Chief Engineer(JICA) JICA Project, Thiruvananthapuram

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru- 560 029
No. BDA/EE(NPKL)/TEN-/A21/2017-18 Date: 01.02.2018
INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDERS
(Through GoK e-procurement platform <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>)
The Executive Engineer, NPKL Division, BDA, BDA Complex, MRCR Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560 040 on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru invites bids from the eligible consultants, for the following works.
Name of the work : Construction of 3 BHK (Phase-1) & 2 BHK (Phase-2) Housing Units at Sy. No.61/1, Kommaghatta Village under Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout on Lump Sum Turnkey Basis based on Tenderer's Own Design under Two Cover System (Two works).
Approx. amount put to tender: For 3 BHK-Rs.8300.00 lakh. For 2 BHK-Rs.9600.00 lakh.
For further details, please log on to <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or call e-procurement Helpdesk on 080-25501216, 080-25501227 or Executive Engineer Mobile No.: 9448592986.
Sd/-Executive Engineer, NPKL Division, BDA, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
Office of the Superintending Engineer, NH Circle, PWD, Lucknow
NOTICE INVITING RFP
Bid Package No. 387/162/Yata - NH Circle/18 Dated: 02-02-2018
1. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, through Uttar Pradesh Public Work Department is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this endeavour, it has decided to undertake "Rehabilitation and upgradation of existing pavement to two lane with paved shoulder from Ch. 323.745 to km 351.000 (Balrampur to Tulsipur section) of NH-730 - including two lane paved shoulder with service road on both sides for a cumulative length of 3.292 km and a two lane ROB with service roads on both sides of length 893m including approaches in Balrampur District in the state of Uttar Pradesh" on EPC Mode. Superintending Engineer, NH Circle, PWD, Lucknow now invites online bids from eligible contractors for the following project:

Sl. No.	State	NH No.	ICB No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Completion Period	Maintenance Period
1	Uttar Pradesh	730	387/162/ Yata - NH Circle/18 Dated: 02.02.2018	Rehabilitation and upgradation of existing pavement to two lane with paved shoulder from Ch. 323.745 to km 351.000 (Balrampur to Tulsipur section) of NH-730 - including two lane paved shoulder with service road on both sides for a cumulative length of 3.292 km and a two lane ROB with service roads on both sides of length 893m including approaches in Balrampur District in the state of Uttar Pradesh on EPC mode.	Rs. 167.32 Cr.	2 Years [24 Months] including rainy season	4 (Four) Years

2. The complete BID document can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of MoRT&H <http://www.morth.nic.in> or e-procurement portal of MoRT&H <https://morth.eproc.in> on 06.02.2018 to 07.03.2018 (upto 17:00 Hrs IST). Bid must be submitted online only at <https://morth.eproc.in> on or before 08.03.2018 (upto 11:00 Hrs IST). Bids received online will be opened online on 12.03.2018 (at 15:00 Hrs IST).
3. Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, document fee, Power of Attorney and joint bidding agreement shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 07.03.2018 (up to 17:00 Hrs. IST). Please note that the Ministry/Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Superintending Engineer
NH Circle PWD, Lucknow
e-mail: senhpwdlko@gmail.com



Dr. Reddy's introduces neurology drug in U.S.
HYDERABAD
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has introduced a generic version of a treatment for chorea, a neurological condition associated with Huntington's disease, in the U.S. market. Tetrabenazine tablets, approved by the USFDA, is a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Xenazine, a registered trademark of Valeant Pharmaceuticals Luxembourg S.A.R.L.

Yes Bank to raise \$600 mn via fixed term notes
NEW DELHI
Private sector lender Yes Bank on Friday said it would raise \$600 million (approximately ₹3,830 crore) via issuance of fixed term notes under its \$1 billion medium term note programme. "The capital raising committee of the board... approved the issuance and allotment of fixed term notes for an aggregate principal amount of \$600 million under the \$1 billion medium term note programme of the bank," Yes Bank said in a BSE filing. PTI

Srikalahasti Pipes profit falls as input costs rise
CHENNAI
Srikalahasthi Pipes Ltd. (SPL) said its standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December 2017 declined 2% to ₹39 crore from ₹40 crore a year earlier, on rising raw material costs. During the period under review, SPL's revenue stood at ₹398 crore (₹301 crore). The firm's coke oven plant and captive power plant would be commissioned by the first quarter of 2018-19, said G.S. Rath, whole-time director.

Hindalco's Q3 net rises 17.5% on higher aluminium prices

Recovery of demand across businesses in India augurs well, says the company

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Kumar Mangalam Birla-led Hindalco Industries reported a 17.5% rise in its third-quarter net profit to ₹376 crore, driven by higher metal prices.
Revenues at India's top aluminium producer increased 11% to ₹11,023 crore on macro factors, volumes and by-product realisation. Aluminium contributed ₹5,323 crore to the revenues and copper ₹5,701 crore.
The company's EBITDA for the quarter improved 15% to ₹1,611 crore.
EBITDA for aluminium business rose 7% to ₹940 crore on the back of higher metal prices and volumes, mitigating spiralling input costs. EBITDA for copper bu-



Weighty load: Aluminium and sow ingots from Hindalco loaded in a bulk carrier for export.

siness surged 28% to ₹421 crore, consequent upon higher copper sales, by-product realisation and supportive macro factors.
One-time loss
Profit could have been higher but for the firm providing for a one-time loss of ₹115.3 crore following a Supreme Court judgement on mining regulations. "Performance across businesses continued to be robust. Stable operations and supportive macros remained the key drivers. Novelis has maintained its market leadership in can, auto segments as well as recy-

cling operations. Going forward, strong recovery of demand across businesses in India augurs well for Indian operations," Hindalco said in a statement.

U.S. capacity
Hindalco's overseas subsidiary Novelis had recently announced its plans to expand its production footprint in the U.S. with \$300 million investment in automotive finishing capacity in Kentucky, U.S. Novelis also agreed to acquire the operating facilities and manufacturing assets for €200 million at its Sierre, Switzerland, plant that had historically been leased.
Hindalco's shares fell 2.94% to ₹249.4 on the BSE on Friday.

Lower minimum employment rule to spur jobs: leather sector

Norm mandates 150 days, a drop from the earlier 240 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The leather industry has welcomed the Budget proposal to cut the minimum period of employment.
The new norms mandate 150 days as the minimum period of employment in the footwear and leather industry, as has been the case for the apparel sector. Earlier, it was 240 days.
The move is aimed at creating new employment opportunities, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in his Budget speech.
"The Centre has made



these changes along with certain amendments to Employment Provident Fund Act to encourage employment of more women," said

Rafeeqe M. Ahmed, president, All India Skin and Hide, Tanners and Merchants Association. "Earlier, this relaxation was available to the textile sector and the anomaly has been set right."
Panaruna Aqeel, vice chairman, Council for Leather Exports, said, "The extension of 25% reduced corporate tax to [firms] having turnover of up to ₹250 crore in FY17 will be immensely beneficial to the leather and footwear industry as about 90% of the industry is concentrated in the MSME segment."

Thumbs Up to go global: Coca-Cola

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Beverage major Coca-Cola on Friday said it planned to take home-grown carbonated cola brand Thums Up to South Asia before unveiling it globally.
"We are all set to take the Thums Up brand to South Asia, possibly by March 2018," Coca-Cola India and South-West Asia president T Krishnakumar said. The company said Thums Up would be launched in markets such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, in addition to a minor presence it currently has in West Asia.

GUEST COLUMN

Building tomorrow's India

KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA

In the last couple of years, the government has implemented some giant-scale programmes in mission mode – demonstrating a lot of zeal and passion that one didn't associate with the public sector in earlier days.

Near-universal enrolment of Aadhar, its use for direct transfer of benefits and the Jan Dhan Yojana are some examples. These successes have possibly emboldened the government to launch another mega initiative in the form of the National Health Protection Scheme, covering 10 crore poor families (almost 40% of India's population) for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation up to ₹5 lakh.

This scheme, which will be the world's largest government-funded health-care programme, is the highlight of this year's Budget. In some ways, it also symbolises the ambition of this Budget and its people-centric priorities, which are also reflected in several other welcome announcements.

The Budget rightly focussed on relieving the agricultural sector of the stress it has been facing in recent times. Pegging the minimum support prices of agro-products at 1.5 times the cost of cultivation will be a major step towards realising the government's agenda of doubling farmers' income by 2022.

Other measures such as the development of agro-markets, 'Operation Green' for stabilising the prices of perishable crops, new missions for fishery and animal husbandry will help boost rural income and diversify the sources of income for farm households.

Social and physical infrastructure have also received much-needed priority. In-



creased allocations for health and education sector are essential for us to realise the full benefits of the demographic dividend.

Similarly, the infrastructure sector deserves higher allocations, considering the imperative to improve the competitiveness of Indian industry and the need to boost public investment at a time when the private capital expenditure cycle is yet to revive.

The allocation for infrastructure has been bolstered by almost 20% to about ₹6 trillion; this will have a multiplier effect on the rest of the economy. Enhanced targets for roads and railways will also improve connectivity and result in better logistic efficiencies.

'Impressive successes'

In the current year, while the government faced shortfalls in non-tax revenues, there were two impressive successes on the fiscal front.

One was the widening of the tax net and increased buoyancy in direct tax revenues. This appears to be a fallout of the greater formalisation of the economy that has been happening following demonetisation and the roll-out of the GST. This bodes well for improving India's tax-to-GDP ratio in the medium-to-long term – a fiscal dividend that can then be

deployed in social and infrastructure spends.

The second success was on the disinvestment front, where the government exceeded its already ambitious target. The Budget mentions the privatisation of Air India, which signals that the government retains its commitment to the disinvestment programme.

These successes and the government's acceptance of the target of bringing down the Centre's debt to 40% of GDP over the medium term suggest that the government is on a fiscally responsible path – notwithstanding the minor slippage in the FY19 deficit target (3.3% of GDP) from the previously announced goalpost of 3%.

On the taxation front, the relief in corporate tax rate given to medium-scale enterprises deserves applause, as it brings our taxation structure closer to the ASEAN levels. The long-term capital gains tax for equity investors is back, but the fact that the capital gains so far have been grandfathered is a fine balancing act.

Overall, this Budget continues the government's thrust on investing in tomorrow's India and is aligned to its key theme of building "a strong, confident and a new India."

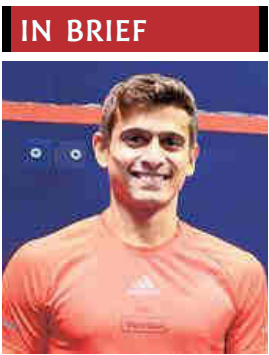
(The writer is Chairman, Aditya Birla Group)

GET MORE SINDHU.

84 pages of pure sports, in the new Sportstar.

Know everything you need to about your favourite sport, and more, in the new and revamped Sportstar that features strategies, tournament analysis, in-depth and well-researched articles on burning issues, upcoming tournaments and everything that keeps the game alive, on the field, and off it. Get a fuller, more comprehensive look at sports, with 84 pages of dedicated content.

To subscribe give a missed call **044 - 33031238** or log on to thehindugroup.in/subscribe



IN BRIEF

Ghosal climbs up in rankings

NEW DELHI

India's leading squash player, Saurav Ghosal jumped five places to No. 14 to become the highest-ranked Indian in the latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) rankings released on Friday. Ghosal beat Joshna Chinappa who slipped three places to No. 17 while Dipika Pallikal remained on 20. PTI



Stokes named in ODI squad for NZ series

LONDON

England included all-rounder Ben Stokes in its squad for the five-match ODI series against New Zealand starting later this month. The first match is in Hamilton on Feb. 25.

The squad: Eoin Morgan (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Tom Curran, Alex Hales, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, David Willey, Chris Woakes, and Mark Wood.



Finch ruled out of tri-series opener

LONDON

Australia's top-order batsman Aaron Finch has been ruled out of the Twenty20 tri-series opener against New Zealand after failing to recover from a hamstring injury. Uncapped opener D'Arcy Short might fill the void for him, reports *cricket.com.au*. "We didn't want to risk him going into this tri-series with this first game. He's going to be on ice definitely," said Warner about his opening partner. ANI

TV PICKS

U-19 WC: (final): India vs Australia: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.

Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.

T20 tri-series: Australia vs New Zealand, Sony Six (SD & HD), 2 p.m.

I-League: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.

Badminton: India Open: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 4 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.

Mendis makes merry

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CHITTAGONG

Kusal Mendis and Dhananjaya de Silva piled on the runs on the third day of the first Sri Lanka-Bangladesh Test here on Friday.

Birthday boy Mendis just missed out on a double century (196), while de Silva made 173 as Sri Lanka reached 504 for three at stumps.

SCOREBOARD

Bangladesh — 1st innings: 513.

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: Dimuth Karunaratne c Kayes b Mehedi O, Kusal Mendis c Mushqur b Tajjul 196, Dhananjaya de Silva c Liton b Mustafizur 173, Roshen Silva (batting) 87, Dinesh Chandimal (batting) 37; Extras (b-7, lb-3, w-1): 11; Total (for three wkts. in 138 overs): 504.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-308, 3-415.

Bangladesh bowling: Mustafizur 25-5-88-1, Sunzamul 37-2-128-0, Mehidi 19-0-97-1, Tajjul 51-13-144-1, Mosaddek 3-0-24-0, Mominul Haque 2-0-6-0, Mahmudullah 1-0-7-0.

India and Australia set for tryst with history

Winner of Saturday's final will be the first team to lift the U-19 WC for a record fourth time

U-19 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Unstoppable so far, India will be aiming to rewrite the record books with a fourth title when the Rahul Dravid-coached side squares off against an equally formidable Australia in the final of the ICC Under-19 World Cup, here on Saturday.

India and Australia are the two most successful teams in the history of the tournament having won the coveted trophy thrice each.

But, come Saturday, Dravid's sprightly boys will be desperate to outwit their Australian counterparts and become the first team in the history of the event to lift the trophy for a record fourth time.

The promising Prithvi Shaw will be eager to join the likes of Mohammad Kaif (2002), Virat Kohli (2008) and Unmukt Chand (2012) in leading the side to the U-19 World Cup title.

Impressive run

Going by current form, odds are heavily in favour of India. The Indians have put in some impressive performances to win all their five matches — including a 100-run victory over Australia in

its tournament opener. India's batting has been at its lethal best. While the openers — Shaw and Manjot Kalra — have given the team good starts throughout the tournament, Shubman Gill has been in phenomenal

Unmukt's message to Prithvi & Co.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

He knows the perils and privileges of being a successful young cricketer and Under-19 World Cup-winning captain Unmukt Chand has a message for Prithvi Shaw and Co.

The Indian team, led by Prithvi, is set to fight it out with Australia in the U-19 World Cup summit clash on Saturday.

In 2012, Unmukt led the India colts to World Cup triumph with a hundred in the final.

The 24-year-old remembers all that and can relate to what a Prithvi, a Shubman Gill or a Kamlesh Nagarkoti may be going through right now.

form at the number three position. In the bowling department, Shivam Mavi and Kamlesh Nagarkoti have been fantastic, raking up speeds in excess of 140kmph at will. Australia, on the other



Unmukt Chand.

"After tomorrow (Saturday) they will enter the man's world. A beautiful phase of their life will end and a new journey with full of challenges await them. Win or lose, it will only be significant but just a part of their bigger journey," Unmukt said.

hand, will be looking for revenge after its big loss to the Indians in the opener.

The Indian skipper was cautious about his team's chances and said Australia had improved considerably since the 100-run defeat.

"They (Australia) are a good side, it will be challenging for us even though they have lost against us in the first game," Shaw said.

Australian skipper Jason Sangha said the 100-run loss to India earlier in the tournament is a thing of the past.

"The 100-run loss does not bother me at all. A grand final is a different contest, anything can happen," he said.

The teams (from):

India U-19: Prithvi Shaw (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Manjot Kalra, Himanshu Rana, Abhishek Sharma, Riyan Parag, Harvik Desai, Shivam Mavi, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ishan Porel, Anukul Roy, Shiva Singh, Aryan Juyal, Arshdeep Singh and Pankaj Yadav.

Australia U-19: Jason Sangha (Capt.), Will Sutherland, Xavier Bartlett, Max Bryant, Jack Edwards, Zak Evans, Jarrod Freeman, Ryan Hadley, Baxter J. Holt, Nathan McSweeney, Jonathan Merlo, Lloyd Pope, Param Uppal and Austin Waugh.

Chasing a fourth

Three-time champions India and Australia will face off in the final of the ICC Under-19 World Cup at the Bay Oval on Saturday. A look at the road to the final and top performers of both teams

INDIA'S ROAD TO THE FINAL	AUSTRALIA'S ROAD TO THE FINAL
v Australia Won by 100 runs	v India Lost by 100 runs
v Papua New Guinea Won by 10 wkts	v Zimbabwe Won by 7 wkts
v Zimbabwe Won by 10 wkts	v Papua New Guinea Won by 311 runs
QUARTER – FINALS v Bangladesh Won by 131 runs	QUARTER – FINALS v England Won by 31 runs
SEMIFINALS v Pakistan Won by 203 runs	SEMIFINALS v Afghanistan Won by 6 wkts

TOP BATSMEN (IND)			TOP BOWLERS (IND)			TOP BATSMEN (AUS)			TOP BOWLERS (AUS)		
Player	Runs	Avg.	Player	Wkts	Avg.	Player	Runs	Avg.	Player	Wkts	Avg.
Gill	341	170.5	Anukul Roy	12	7.91	Sangha	216	43.2	Pope	11	11.1
Shaw	232	77.33	Shivam Mavi	8	15.5	McSweeney	188	94	Ralston	7	5.85
Kalra	151	50.33	Nagarkoti	7	15.14	Edwards	188	47	Merlo	5	10

INDIA				PAST PERFORMANCES				AUSTRALIA			
HIGHEST TOTAL	LOWEST TOTAL	MOST RUNS	MOST WKTS	HIGHEST TOTAL	LOWEST TOTAL	MOST RUNS	MOST WKTS	HIGHEST TOTAL	LOWEST TOTAL	MOST RUNS	MOST WKTS
425/3 v Scot. 2004	71/10 v Pak. 2006	566 SARFARAZ KHAN 2014-2016	26 ABHISHEK SHARMA 2002-2004	490/6 v Kenya 2002	73/10 v Zim 2004	471 BRETT DOUGLAS WILLIAMS 1988-1988	27 MOISES HENRIQUES 2004-2006				

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FINALS IN WHICH EITHER TEAM HAS APPEARED							
1988	2000	2002	2006	2008	2010	2012	2016
PAK VS AUS	SRI LANKA VS IND	S. AFRICA VS AUS	IND VS PAK	IND VS S. AFRICA	PAK VS AUS	IND VS AUS	IND VS WI
Aus won by 5 wkts	India won by 6 wkts	Aus won by 7 wkts	Pak won by 38 runs	Ind won by 12 runs	Aus won by 25 runs	Ind won by 6 wkts	WI won by 5 wkts

Injured du Plessis ruled out of ODIs and T20I series

Replacement captain to be announced today

INDIA IN SA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CENTURION

South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis was on Friday ruled out of the ongoing ODI series and the upcoming Twenty20 Internationals against India owing to a finger injury, a massive blow to the home side.

du Plessis was injured during the Durban ODI in which he scored his ninth hundred to take the Proteas to 269 for eight. India chased down the total with ease, winning by six wickets and taking a 1-0 lead.

"I just got a blow (to my finger), so hopefully it will be fine for the next game," du Plessis had said at the post-match conference on Thursday.

However, further assessment revealed that he had sustained a fracture that will require three to six weeks to heal, thus ruling him out of the remaining five ODIs and three T20Is.

A replacement captain for the rest of the limited-over schedule against India will



Big blow: South Africa captain Faf du Plessis, who scored a century in the first ODI at Durban, sustained a finger fracture while fielding. ■ REUTERS

be named on Saturday, just 24 hours before the second ODI here.

Farhaan Behardien has been called up as du Plessis' replacement.

Klaasen drafted in

Also, wicketkeeper-batsman Heinrich Klaasen has also been given a maiden call-up to the ODI squad as back-up

to first-choice Quinton de Kock. du Plessis is now facing a race against time to be fit for the first Test against Australia starting in Durban on March 1.

This a huge blow for the Proteas who had earlier lost A.B. de Villiers for the first three ODIs, also owing to a finger injury sustained during the third Test.

INDIA OPEN

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

It proved to be a truly testing day for the host at the \$350,000 India Open on Friday. Moreover, coach P. Gopi Chand could only watch helplessly as a vast majority of his trainees tumbled without stretching their rivals.

One after another, B. Sai Praneeth, Sameer Verma and P. Kashyap lost in straight games and left the men's singles draw without any home interest. Shockingly, this is the second successive year when the men semifinals is without an Indian.

If that was not disappointing enough for spectators present at the Siri Fort Indoor Complex, the meek surrender of Saina Nehwal came as a shock.

The saving grace was the survival of defending champion P.V. Sindhu and the Pranav Chopra-N. Sikki Reddy combine. Sindhu's preparedness was severely tested as she needed a decider to stay alive unlike the convincing display from Pranav and Sikki.

Saina's first defeat in four meetings to USA's Beiwen



At last... Beiwen Zhang finally had the measure of Saina Nehwal, taking out the Indian star in straight games. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Zhang was followed the exit of Olympic champion Carolina Marin.

Down 0-6 in the first two minutes meant Saina was never allowed to settle down. She struggled through the 12-minute opening game, hardly finding her feet and the 'feel' for the strokes.

In the second game, Zhang showed that Saina had very little left in the tank.

A panting Saina, a finalist last Sunday in the Indone-

sian Masters, began to err in judgements and sent the shuttles long on the 'big' points, including the match-point.

Zhang, who represented Singapore before falling out with her Chinese coach and moving to the US three years ago, will now take on another surprise semifinalist, Hong Kong's Cheung Ngan Yi, the conqueror of Marin 21-12, 21-19.

Earlier, Sindhu had to deal with 13-20 deficit in the second game against Marin's

teammate Beatriz Corrales. Sindhu then saved six game points to reach 19-20 before the Spaniard levelled and forced the decider following a 'lucky point' off the net-chord. But those six points helped Sindhu regain her self-belief and she raced through the decider.

Quarterfinal results: Men: Qiao Bin (Chn) bt P. Kashyap 21-16, 21-18; Chou Tien Chen (Tpe) bt B. Sai Praneeth 21-15, 21-13; Shi Yuqi (Chn) bt Wang Tzu Wei (Tpe) 21-13, 21-12; Iskandar Zulkarnain (Mal) bt Sameer Verma 21-17, 21-14.

Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Beatriz Corrales (Esp) 21-12, 19-21, 21-11; Ratchanok Intanon (Tha) bt Yip Pui Yin (Hkg) 21-11, 21-11; Beiwen Zhang (USA) bt Saina Nehwal 21-10, 21-13; Cheung Ngan Yi (Hkg) bt Carolina Marin (Esp) 21-12, 21-19.

Doubles (Involving Indians): Men: Marcus Fenaldi Gideon & Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Ina) bt Manu Attri & Sumeth Reddy 21-11, 21-15.

Women: Du Yue & Li Yinhui (Chn) bt Ashwini Ponnappa & Sikki Reddy 21-17, 23-21; Jongkolphan Kititharakul & Rawinda Prajongjai (Tha) bt J. Meghna & Poorvisha Ram 21-10, 21-15.

Mixed doubles: Pranav Chopra & Sikki Reddy bt Han Chengkai & Cao Tong Wei (Chn) 2-8, 21-13; Mathias Christiansen & Christinna Pedersen (Den) bt Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Ashwini Ponnappa 21-17, 21-11.

Sharath's second coming

A. JOSEPH ANTONY
HYDERABAD

Achanta Sharath Kamal is the classic comeback man. From his maiden 2003 conquest to claiming the senior National table tennis singles title five years in a row, spilling it in the next five and regaining it twice in the last two years, he equalled Kamlesh Mehta's record of eight titles at Ranchi last week.

It's a second coming for the Chennai-based champ, laid low by a hamstring injury in 2015, wheelchair-bound for four weeks and able to walk without support only three months later. From an all-time high World No. 32, he had crashed to 74.

"I largely went unchallenged when winning five times on the trot," Kamal told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board inter-unit tournament here.

Recalling his Ranchi triumph, he said, "I was in Chennai all December. I trained in small halls where the ball travels faster than the bigger arenas that host major National or interna-



Back in the hunt: Achanta Sharath Kamal's return to top-flight table tennis has been slow and steady. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

tional tournaments. Such a switch suited me fine," he said of his success.

The climb back to the top was slow but steady. Under coach Linus Mernsten since 2012, his game saw a transformation. The Swede who previously trained England and Luxembourg stood by his ward through the depths of despair.

"I began to counter Anthony Amalraj with the backhand flick that he used to subdue me with," said the highest-ever ranked Indian paddler.

The road to the final saw him cruise through seven rounds at his explosive best.

"As the tournament progressed, my timing got better," said Kamal, a senior manager in Indian Oil. As always his pet stroke is the forehand top spin lash, unleashed close to the net with the ball on the ascent.

"With Sharath based in Europe and adopting their style of play, he had difficulty in adapting to Indian conditions — the air, atmosphere, ball and tables. That caused his slump. Now that he has blended the two, he's doing well. I wish he wins the National title a ninth time, because he deserves it for his dedication," said India coach Arup Basak.

14 SPORT

ATK has everything to play for

Westwood's side meets BFC in a crucial contest

ISL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Defending champion ATK, staring at the possibility of an early exit, will look to turn-around its fortunes when it takes on Bengaluru FC here on Saturday. It will be an interesting clash as Ashley Westwood, interim head coach of the hosts, was the man who had coached the Bengaluru side to two I-League titles in three seasons.

Westwood, who took over from former Manchester United striker Teddy Sheringham after the latter quit the post, has not been able to change its fortunes.

ATK has lost both its home matches (against Chennaiyin FC and Jamshedpur FC) under him and

slid to the eighth spot with 12 points from as many matches.

“It [knockout berth] is still a mathematical possibility. If we win six out of six, I am sure we will be close (to the playoffs). We will fire on all cylinders and try to get three points,” said Westwood. The good news for the hosts is the comeback of key striker Robbie Keane after a brief injury lay-off.

For the visitors, currently on the top with 24 points from 12 outings, a victory will consolidate its position.

“We want to keep a clean sheet. I am still trying to find that balance in the team. We still have not won three consecutive games. So, we need to push ourselves,” said Spaniard Albert Roca, Bengaluru's coach.



Rare sight: ATK, which has not had much to rejoice this season, will hope to turn things around in the game against BFC. ■PTI

Barcelona surges ahead with Suarez's strike

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Luis Suarez headed in the only goal as defending champion Barcelona edged Valencia 1-0 in their Copa del Rey semifinal first leg at a half-full Camp Nou on Thursday.

Barcelona, the record 29-time winner of the tournament, is attempting to become the first team to lift the cup four years in a row since Athletic Bilbao in the 1930s.

But it was forced to labour against a Valencia team missing a trio of key players – Goncalo Guedes, Geoffrey Kondogbia and Ezequiel Garay – through injury.

Barcelona dominated possession but had to wait until the 67th minute for the breakthrough.

Not surprisingly, Lionel Messi was the man who unlocked the Valencia defence before setting up Suarez.

The Argentine danced his way into the penalty area before a deft left-footed chip left three defenders out of position and allowed Suarez to score from the edge of the six-yard box with a diving header.

Thursday's tight affair was dramatically different to the last time these two teams met at the same stage two years ago – Barcelona won 8-1 on aggregate following a

7-0 win in the first leg.

“We have a small advantage but there's still 90 minutes to play and Valencia are a very strong when they play at home,” said Suarez who has now scored 13 times in the last 11 games.

The results:
Semifinals: First leg: Barcelona 1 (Suarez 67) bt Valencia 0.

On Wednesday: Leganes 1 (Siovas 56) drew with Sevilla 1 (Muriel 21).

RACING

Meritocracy runs with a good chance

HYDERABAD: Meritocracy runs with a good chance in the Shavan Kumar Memorial Cup (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Feb. 3).

1. SECUNDERABAD CLUB PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 12-55 p.m.: 1. Apowerx (-) (-) 60, 2. Lord Gift (5) B.R. Kumar 58, 3. Good Opinion (7) Togralu 56.5, 4. Own Battle (8) Dileep 55, 5. Raajneeti (9) Tanwar 54, 6. Mean Machine (1) Akshay 53.5, 7. Wood Bridge (4) Kiran Naidu 53, 8. Olympic Hero (3) Uday Kiran 52.5, 9. Delmonico (2) Kunal 51 and 10. Maahimsathi (6) Pawar 50.5.

1. GOOD OPINION, 2. MEAN MACHINE, 3. LORD GIFT

2. H.P. MISTRY MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II), (1,100m), md 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-25: 1. Hollister (4) Vikrant 55, 2. Mr. Bruss (5) Sai Kiran 55, 3. Nayadeep (12) Koushik 55, 4. Stain Symphony (3) Kuldeep 55, 5. That's My Magic (9) Akshay 55, 6. Aarohi (10) Deepak 53.5, 7. Baywatch Babe (2) Rawal 53.5, 8. Cannon Art (11) Kiran Naidu 53.5, 9. Dancing Doll (7) B.R. Kumar 53.5, 10. Red Striker (6) Ajit 53.5, 11. Smarty (8) Parmar 53.5 and 12. Soul Empress (10) Togralu 53.5.

1. THAT'S MY MAGIC, 2. MR. BRUSS, 3. SMARTY

3. H.P. MISTRY MEMORIAL CUP (Div. I), (1,100m), md 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-55: 1. Best Friend (7) Nakhat 55, 2. Long Range (5) Aneel 55, 3. Super Act (3) Akshay 55, 4. Wings Of Eagles (4) Sai Kiran 55, 5. Air Salute (6) Parmar 53.5, 6. Bhumi Bhumi Bhumi (8) Koushik 53.5, 7. Blazing Speed (2) Rawal 53.5, 8. Casta Diva (9) Kuldeep 53.5, 9. Crimson

Fire (-) (-) 53.5, 10. Escalating Striker (12) Ajit 53.5, 11. Silver Babe (11) Tanwar 53.5, 12. Solar Heights (10) Kiran Naidu 53.5 and 13. Ursula (1) Deepak 53.5.

1. WINGS OF EAGLES, 2. LONG RANGE, 3. CASTA DIVA

4. SUNNY BLOSSOM PLATE (Div. I), (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 2-30: 1. Aston Doulton (9) Kunal 60, 2. Lavender (1) Nakhat 60, 3. Cash For Rank (2) Ajeeth 59, 4. Western Express (7) Aneel 59, 5. Wonder Eye (8) Togralu 58, 6. Royal Hero (3) Akshay 55.5, 7. Monte Rosa (11) Ajit 54.5, 8. Prep One (5) Deepak 54.5, 9. Man Of The Series (4) Pawar 54, 10. Charlie Brown (10) Rawal 53, 11. Sher Afgan (-) (-) 52.5 and 12. Forever Bullish (6) Parmar 50.

1. ROYAL HERO, 2. PREP ONE, 3. CHARLIE BROWN

5. SECUNDERABAD CLUB PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 3-00: 1. Jumeira Express (4) Vikrant 60, 2. Sweet Pistol (9) Nareesh 58.5, 3. Platinum Claasz (1) Rohit 56.5, 4. Good Strike (6) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 5. Snow Castle (7) Deep Shanker 54.5, 6. Shivalik Class (8) Parmar 53.5, 7. Soaring Sensex (2) Akshay 53.5, 8. Joy Of Giving (5) Pawar 53 and 9. Southern Belle (3) Rawal 51.

1. SOARING SENSEX, 2. JUMEIRA EXPRESS, 3. SHIVALIK CLASS

6. SUNNY BLOSSOM PLATE (Div. II), (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 3-30: 1. Gayle Force (3) Togralu 60, 2. Dear Friend (11) C.P. Bopanna 59, 3. Golden Xanthus (10) Kunal 58, 4. Shivalik Arrow (1) B.R. Kumar 58, 5. Vijay's Harmony (6) Pawar 56, 6. Time To Climb (4) Akshay 55, 7. Naamdhari (9) Sai Kiran

54.5, 8. Southern Minstrel (2) Rohit 54.5, 9. Princess (8) Kiran Naidu 54, 10. Mountain Of Light (5) Parmar 52.5 and 11. My Windfall (7) Nareesh 52.5.

1. SHIVALIK ARROW, 2. NAAMDHARI, 3. TIME TO CLIMB

7. SHAVAN KUMAR MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II), 4-00: 1. Meritocracy (6) Akshay 60, 2. Composite (8) Dileep 58, 3. Exclusive Striker (3) Kiran Naidu 57.5, 4. City Of Sails (2) Nareesh 57, 5. Rose Eternal (9) Deep Shanker 56.5, 6. Champion Bull (5) Parmar 56, 7. Seven Eleven (4) Tanwar 55.5, 8. Palace On Wheels (7) Gopal 54, 9. Wine N Dine (10) C.P. Bopanna 54 and 10. George Cross (1) Aneel 53.5.

1. MERITOCRACY, 2. SEVEN ELEVEN, 3. EXCLUSIVE STRIKER

8. TWIN STAR PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 4-30: 1. Conroy (9) Koushik 60.5, 2. Dolce (5) Sai Kiran 60.5, 3. Golden Adara (3) Togralu 60.5, 4. Gem Star (7) Kiran Naidu 60.5, 5. New Hope (11) Deepak 60.5, 6. Triumph Boy (8) Rohit 58, 7. Brioni (4) Pawar 57.5, 8. Tough Sussex (2) Ajit 57, 9. Dawning Hope (13) B.R. Kumar 56.5, 10. Cannon Fury (14) Kunal 54, 11. Rainbow Blues (6) Ajeeth 54, 12. Kohnoor Lucy (12) Tanwar 51, 13. Touch Of Gold (1) Rawal 50.5 and 14. Top Spint (10) Nareesh 50.

1. NEW HOPE, 2. CONROY, 3. TOUGH SUSSEX

Day's best: **MERITOCRACY**
Double: **ROYAL HERO – SOARING SENSEX**

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 3, 4 & 5; (iii): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

Hong Kong Fed Cup team warms up

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Hong Kong team, coached by former India Davis Cupper Karan Rastogi, had its practice stint at the DLTA Complex on Friday, to prepare for the Asia-Oceania Fed Cup Group-I women's tennis event scheduled to be played from February 7 to 10.

Pranjala, Rutuja arrive
For India, former Asian junior champions Y. Pranjala and Rutuja Bhosale have arrived here.

The show courts at the facility were resurfaced and used for the semifinals

and finals of the recent Asian under-14 championship.

The other members of the Indian squad – Ankita Raina, Karman Kaur Thandi, Prarthana Thombare – and reserve Zeel Desai are expected to arrive soon.

India, captained by former Fed Cup player Ankita Bhambri, has been clubbed with China, Kazakhstan and Hong Kong.

The other group will comprise Japan, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Korea.

Ekansh Dobal stars for Young Cricketer

Ekansh Dobal top-scored with 124 to single-handedly ensure an eight-wicket victory for Young Cricketer CC against Youngster CC in a DDCA League match on Friday. Hari Om Mishra took three wickets for the winner.

In another game, Lokesh Nagar picked up five wickets in Sonnet Club's seven-wicket win against Telefunken CC.

Elsewhere, Rahul Sethi and Jayanshu Chaturvedi picked

up seven wickets amongst them and Gulshan Kumar top-scored with 108 runs as Collage Sports thrashed Young Friends CC by 167 runs.

The scores:
Youngster CC 210 for eight in 40 overs (Abhit Malik 54, Vikram Khatri 36, Hari Om Mishra three for 29) lost to Young Cricketer CC 211 for two in 30 overs (Ekansh Dobal 134).

Telefunken CC 191 for eight in 30 overs (Parth Madan 61, Yogesh Nagar 58, Lokesh Nagar five for 30) lost to Sonnet CC 195 for three in 21.2 overs (Pracham Sharma 87 n.o.,

Saqib continues to be on top

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

He has been on the professional circuit for a little more than three years but Syed Saqib Ahmed has never felt so good before. During the practice rounds, the 24-year-old from Bengaluru felt very different, felt that this could be his moment.

Still, Saqib was surprised with his splendid run in the PGTI Cochín Masters at Neddumbassery's CIAL Golf Club which helped him maintain his overnight lead, with a four-shot lead, after Friday's penultimate round. “I didn't expect this at all. I'm just playing each shot as

it comes, I'm not even expecting to win tomorrow,” said the young man, who has never won a PGTI title but has emerged as a favourite here..

Saqib has been trying out yoga and meditation for the last six months, after a friend asked him to try them out, and now the results are showing.

The scores (18 holes, par 72, day 3): 1. Syed Saqib Ahmed (206), 2. Abhijith Singh Chadha (210), 3. Amardip Singh Malik (211), 4. Sujjan Singh, Gaurav Pratap Singh, Ankur Chadha (all 212), 7. Shankar Das (213), 8. Sudhir Sharma, Maniram, Honey Baisoya (all 214).

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

Salvador Dali strikes it rich in feature event

BENGALURU: Salvador Dali (Allan up) won the Karnataka Racehorse Owners' Association Million, the chief event of the races held here on Friday (Feb. 2). The winner is owned by Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla & Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla & Mr. M. Rishad and trained by Padmanabhan.

1. HEBBE FALLS PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 20: **CORVANTIC** (Chisty) 1. Nyssa (Arshad) 2. Golden Opinion (Ashok) 3. Ocean Park (Jagadeesh) 4. 7-1/2, 2 and Nose. Im, 39.33s. ₹58 (w), 19, 15 and 170 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 328, FP: 100, Q: 71, Trinella: 2,381 and 5,442, Exacta: 77,411 and 33,176. Favourite: Internal Affair. Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar & Mr. Derrick J. Rego. Trainer: Prasanna.

2. R.W.L.T.C TROPHY (1,400m), 4-y-o, (Terms): **HOT N FIRE** (Mu-

dasar) 1. Pinyada (Suraj) 2. Turf Star (Chisty) 3 and Turf Magic (Dhebe) 4. 2, Lnk and 4-3/4. Im, 25.70s. ₹41 (w), 15 and 12 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 27, FP: 93, Q: 44, Trinella: 97 and 91. Favourite: Pinyada. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Arjun.

3. SHRAVANABELAGOLA PLATE (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 6-y-o & over: **DEL PORTO** (Chisty) 1, Wings Of Fortune (Kiran Raj) 2, Extremelydangerous (Rayan) 3 and Yellowzone (Arshad) 4. Not run: First Step and Reverberating. 8, 1/2 and 3/4. Im, 39.13s. ₹23 (w), 12, 17 and 35 (p), SHP: 49, THP: 91, FP: 126, Q: 58, Trinella: 1,470 and 711, Exacta: 4,016 and 1,506. Favourite: Del Porto. Owner and trainer: Mr. Dheeraj.

4. CHICKMAGALUR NIRVANAPPA SHETTY NANJAMMA TMP CUP (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 30 to 50,

5-y-o & over: **SUMMER DAWN** (Sai Kiran) 1, Reference (Irvan) 2, James Bond (Patel) 3 and Back Of Beyond (Arshad) 4. Nose, 1-3/4 and 2-3/4. Im, 26.63s. ₹38 (w), 15, 14 and 94 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 154, FP: 316, Q: 170, Trinella: 4,804 and 2,059, Exacta: 11,388 and 6,833. Favourite: Campari Girl. Owner: Mr. R.D. Singh. Trainer: Sharat.

5. KARNATAKA RACEHORSE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION MILLION (1,200m), 3-y-o only, (Terms): **SALVADOR DALI** (Allan) 1, Subah Ka Tara (Arshad) 2, Orenda (Dhebe) 3 and Kartoots (Chisty) 4. Not run: Regal Force. 1/2, 5-1/4 and 3/4. Im, 13.82s. ₹40 (w), 12, 12 and 15 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 38, FP: 194, Q: 77, Trinella: 662 and 409, Exacta: 3,433 and 1,622. Favourite: My Lexicon. Owners: Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep. by. Mr. Zavaray S. Poon-

awalla & Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla & Mr. M. Rishad. Trainer: Padmanabhan.

6. F.K. IRANI MEMORIAL TROPHY PEARL CITY (Suraj) 1, El Fenix (Jagadeesh) 2, Fair Game (Arshad) 3 and Mickey Mouse (Srinath) 4. 2, 1 and Shd. Im, 25.60s. ₹25 (w), 12, 22 and 18 (p), SHP: 63, THP: 45, FP: 254, Q: 135, Trinella: 915 and 291, Exacta: 4,507 and 1,622. Favourite: Pearl City. Owner: Mr. Ajith Vittal Shetty. Trainer: Prithviraj.

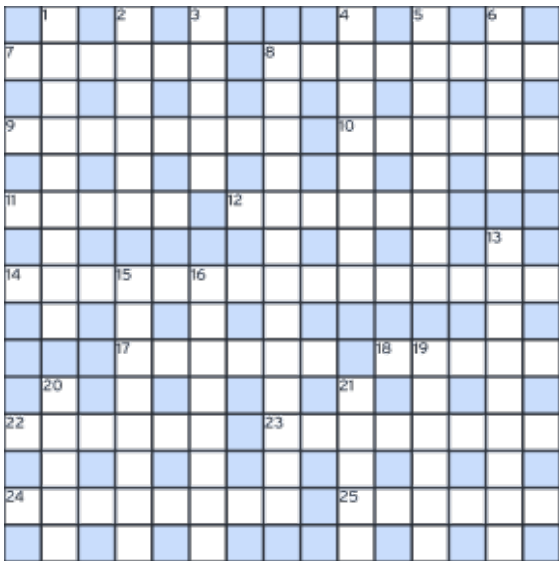
7. KRISHNA RAJA SAGAR PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over: **BEYOND REACH** (Chisty) 1, Star Line (Dhebe) 2, Island Pearl (Rajesh K) 3 and Perfect King (Naveen) 4. Not run: Perfect goldenera, 2-1/4, 1-1/4 and 1-1/2. Im, 14.66s. ₹14 (w), 13, 24 and 76 (p), SHP: 61, THP: 166, FP: 185, Q: 105, Trinella: 3,175 and 1,871, Ex-

acta: 2,13,764 (carried over). Favourite: Beyond Reach. Owners: Mrs. Namitha Jagtap, Mr. B.R. Vinod, Mr. Satish Dasam & Mr. Sriharsha G.S. Trainer: Prasanna.

8. CHICKMAGALUR NIRVANAPPA SHETTY NANJAMMA TMP CUP (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over: **ERDEMIR** (Srinath) 1, Ninon (Chetan) 2, Raw Gold (Nivek) and Blue Blazer (Akram) 4. Not run: Lunar Storm and Happy Dancing. 2-1/4, 2-1/4 and 2-1/4. Im, 26.42s. ₹15 (w), 10, 20 and 14 (p), SHP: 54, THP: 52, FP: 57, Q: 56, Trinella: 120 and 43, Exacta: 4,422 and 3,384. Favourite: Erdemir. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. Gautam Aggarwal. Trainer: M.R. Singh.

Jackpot: ₹2,530 (176 tkts.); Runner-up: ₹712 (268 tkts.); Treble (i): ₹470 (37 tkts.); (ii): ₹87 (411 tkts.).

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12231



■ ACROSS

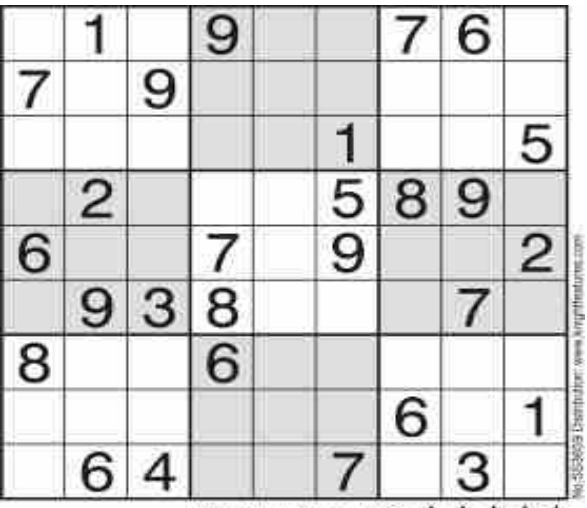
- 7 Sign when political affiliations switch in void (6)
- 8 As though somewhere else there's millions in ready supply (8)
- 9 Daisy's family member, female, always a handful (8)
- 10 Tick acknowledgement (6)

- 11 Incontrovertible belief of setter, say abnormal chap (5)
 - 12 Wooden or concrete, getting broken with time (6)
 - 14 Place primarily to be covered, sense a deadline's involved going by this travel advice (3,6,3,3)
 - 17 Obsessed with death, married men getting tender (6)
 - 18 Aged in relation to class (5)
 - 22 Criminal stuffing in loot gets a run of bad luck (6)
 - 23 Soak in river during dip, not easy when head is submerged (8)
 - 24 Trained nurse, after checking temperature, got cold sponge (8)
 - 25 Foster home almost quiet (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Minimum exposed, so be normal chaps (4,5)
 - 2 Riot with spade and pick (6)

(set by xChequer)

- 3 Tory-Radical split (5)
- 4 The core of such plea: am wrong! (3,5)
- 5 Sunk without a guide, deemed bad (8)
- 6 Faculty just tolerating student (5)
- 8 Fifty-fifty two? Hard days, need mild exercises (4,3,6)
- 13 One below par mostly without support, name's Charlie (9)
- 15 Imply importance by association with titled relations, mainly at work (4-4)
- 16 Lifts large blocks wearing prison uniform (8)
- 19 Dashing ace Rishikesh sets, impossible he is forgotten (6)
- 20 Put pressure on ma? (5)
- 21 Close friend about to take leave with psychic instinct (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12230

S	L	I	A	N	T	A	V	E
S	K	Y	E	O	I	R	E	A
P	H	A	L	A	B	E	D	S
O	T	E	E	R	R			
E	D	I	N	C	A	N	V	A
E	R	L	I	X				
A	P	P	A	R	E	N	T	S
P	R	O	C	E	S	S	I	N
S	I	D	L	E	S	O	S	P

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	9	1	5	3	2	4	8	6
2	4	8	9	7	6	3	1	5
3	6	5	8	4	1	7	9	2
1	2	7	3	9	8	6	5	4
4	5	6	2	1	7	9	3	8
9	8	3	6	5	4	1	2	7
8	3	2	4	6	9	5	7	1
5	1	4	7	2	3	8	6	9
6	7	9	1	8	5	2	4	3

FAITH

Meaningful conversations

There is a lot to be said for samvada – conversation. When a conversation is meaningful, then the results are beneficial. Lectures, not being interactive, lack the advantage of conversations. Information that comes through conversations gets imprinted in the mind. That is why in the Upanishads, a lot is conveyed through conversations.

In the Upanishads, seekers of Brahma Vidya put questions to jnanis about the nature of the Supreme Brahman. The samvada pattern is seen in the Ramayana too, explained M.A. Venkatakrisnan in a discourse. In fact, the Ramayana begins with a conversation between Valmiki and Narada. Sage Narada comes to sage Valmiki's ashram. Valmiki asks Narada who is the one who possesses sixteen desirable qualities. Narada has no hesitation in replying that Rama is the One who possesses such admirable traits. So, the Ramayana begins with Valmiki posing a question and Narada supplying an elaborate answer.

Upon King Janamejaya's request, sage Vyasa narrated the Mahabharata to his disciple Vaisampayana. So, this epic too begins with an interaction. The Mahabharata is full of many conversations. The Bhagavad Gita results because of the questions that Arjuna puts to Lord Krishna. Sanjaya updates Dhritrashtra about the happenings on the battlefield. He also tells Dhritrashtra about Lord Krishna's advice to Arjuna in the form of the Bhagavad Gita. So here again events are described through a conversation between two people.

When Yudhishthira needs spiritual advice, Lord Krishna tells him to approach Bhishma who is on the bed of arrows and is awaiting Uttarayana to give up his life. So, Yudhishthira puts his questions to Bhishma. And these questions result in Bhishma giving the Vishnu Sahasranama. Thus, the Sahasranama too had its origins in a conversation.

The greatest of all time

Always wondered who the best batsmen in Test history are? We crunch the numbers to find out

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

As fun as they are, armchair discussions on who the greatest batsmen in Test history are tend to unravel very quickly. Estimating a batsman's worth – and then measuring how this stacks up against other players across eras – is difficult business.

Simply comparing batting averages is flawed – a batsman in an era could have faced better bowlers (or worse) than someone from another age. Then, there are the changes in rules, conditions, and technology (the covering of pitches; the limit on the bouncers per over; the introduction of helmets; DRS – just a few of these).

It is, therefore, not accurate to say that batsman X, with an average of 50 from 20 innings in the 1990s, is better than batsman Y, who averaged 45 from 60 innings in the 1970s.

We need a method of normalisation that accounts for changes in eras and is able to

compare batsmen across them. One way is to measure how a batsman has done in his time – the extent to which he has outperformed his peers. We can then compare this margin with the margins of other batsmen in their eras.

To do this, we find the difference between a player's batting average and the average number of runs scored by all other batsmen during the period the player was active. For instance, Sachin Tendulkar averaged 53.78 between his debut in 1989 and retirement in 2013. All other players in this 24-year period averaged 33.14. The difference between Tendulkar and the rest in his time is 20.64.

This difference in averages gives an indication of how much better (or worse) the batsman was in comparison to his peers. We tabulate this difference for all cricketers who have batted in Tests, from 1877 to the present. The top 20 batsmen (minimum: 40 innings) are listed below:

Player	Country	Span	Innings	NO	Avg.	Mean Average of era	Average Difference
Don Bradman	Aus	1928-48	80	10	99.94	31.55	68.39
Steve Smith	Aus	2010-18	111	16	63.75	33.27	30.48
George Headley	WI	1930-54	40	4	60.83	30.77	30.06
Graeme Pollock	SA	1963-70	41	4	60.97	31.85	29.12
Everton Weekes	WI	1948-58	81	5	58.61	29.7	28.91
Herbert Sutcliffe	Eng	1924-35	84	9	60.73	31.97	28.76
Ken Barrington	Eng	1955-68	121	15	58.67	30.69	27.98
Clyde Walcott	WI	1948-60	74	7	56.68	29.66	27.02
Garry Sobers	WI	1954-74	160	21	57.78	31.15	26.63
Wally Hammond	Eng	1927-47	140	16	58.45	31.91	26.54
Jack Hobbs	Eng	1908-30	102	7	56.94	30.57	26.37
Len Hutton	Eng	1937-55	138	15	56.67	30.53	26.14

Kumar Sangakkara	SL	2000-15	233	17	57.4	33.87	23.53
Dudley Nourse	SA	1915-51	62	7	53.81	30.77	23.04
Jacques Kallis	SA	1995-2013	280	40	55.37	33.12	22.25
Greg Chappell	Aus	1970-84	151	19	53.86	32.18	21.68
Sachin Tendulkar	Ind	1989-2013	329	33	53.78	33.14	20.64
Virat Kohli	Ind	2011-18	112	8	53.4	32.93	20.47
Brian Lara	WI	1990-2006	232	6	52.88	32.44	20.44
Javed Miandad	Pak	1976-93	189	21	52.57	32.14	20.43

The Don, an extreme outlier in sport if there ever was one, is obviously head and shoulders ahead of anyone else. Current Australian captain Steve Smith's career is at a real sweet spot and his consistency places him second only to the Don. Among recently retired players, Kumar Sangakkara ranks just above Jacques Kallis, even as Tendulkar and Brian Lara round out the top 20.

Another factor of greatness is longevity. The difference in averages alone doesn't account for it. Some players who were more consistent over a long period might have had a lower average difference than those with shorter careers who retired close to their peaks.

We need a measure of the relative weight of a batsman's runs. 'Runs above mean batsman' does this well. This is the difference between the total number of runs scored by a batsman in his career and the runs a batsman of his era with a mean average would have scored in the same number of innings.

If that sounds a little complicated, an example will clear it up: let's take Tendulkar again and see how he compares with someone like Viv Richards.

Tendulkar's overall average is 53.78 across 329 innings with 33 not outs (296 effective innings). The mean average between 1989 and 2013 was 33.14. So the value Tendulkar added over a batsman with the mean average across the same number of innings is 53.78*296 = 33.14*296, which equals 6109.44 runs.

For a precise measure, the averages are not rounded off in the calculation, and this value is 6111.56. Richards' overall value, similarly calculated between 1974 and 1991, is 3059.2 runs across 170 effective innings.

Player	Country	Runs	Runs above mean batsman
S. Tendulkar	Ind	15,921	6111.56
J. Kallis	SA	13,289	3340.20
K. Sangakkara	SL	12,480	5084.08
R. Dravid	Ind	13,288	4814.56
R. Ponting	Aus	13,378	4812.40
D. Bradman	Aus	6,996	4787.30
B. Lara	WI	11,953	4621.50
S. Chandrapaul	WI	11,867	4186.25
A. Border	Aus	11,174	4064.43
Steve Waugh	Aus	10,927	3991.28
M. Jayawardene	SL	11,814	3860.28
S. Gavaskar	Ind	10,122	3730.56
G. Sobers	WI	8,032	3703.15
Younis Khan	Pak	10,099	3541.80
Javed Miandad	Pak	8,032	3432.40
W. Hammond	Eng	7,249	3292.16
Ian Barrington	Eng	6,806	3245.96
A. Cook	Eng	12,005	3219.72
L. Hutton	Eng	6,971	3215.81
Viv Richards	WI	8,540	3059.20

Clearly, those who had long careers dominate this list, but here too, the Don is present at No 6. Sangakkara's high average (57.40) propels him to third place behind Kallis and above higher run-getters, Rahul Dravid and Ricky Ponting.



WORD PLAY

Kong block

● **What is it?** It's a type of block used in volleyball. It occurs when a defender at the net thwarts a spike attempt, or attack, using just one hand instead of the recommended two. It's not the most secure technique around, but it can make for some spectacular action.

● **How is it used?** As a desperate last resort. A 'Kong' typically occurs when the defender is late to get into an effective blocking position, and has no other option but to flail with one hand. It's usually caused by a clever, deceptive switch of play by the setter at the net.



● **What's the origin story?** There's no way of knowing who attempted the technique first, but the name comes from the famous monster film, *King Kong*, which features a gigantic, prehistoric ape. The method closely resembles the movie character swatting at airplanes.

● **Who did it best?** Legendary American beach volleyball player Randy Stoklos. With just two players defending in the sand-court variant of the game, there isn't always time for two hands. And it's widely believed that no one did it better one-handed than Stoklos.

ON THE BOX

STACKING UP



■ **Premier League:** SAT: Burnley vs. Manchester City, 5.50 P.M.; Goal rush, 8.30 P.M.; Arsenal vs. Everton, 11 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD, SUN: Crystal Palace vs. Newcastle United, 7.45 P.M.; Liverpool vs. Tottenham Hotspur, 10 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD.

■ **La Liga:** SAT: Eibar vs. Sevilla, 5.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD, SUN: Levante vs. Real Madrid, 1.15 A.M.; Atletico Madrid vs. Valencia, 1.15 A.M. (MON); SONY TEN 2 & HD.

■ **Serie A:** SUN: Inter vs. Crotone, 1.15 A.M.; SONY TEN 3 & HD; Juventus vs. Sassuolo, 7.30 P.M.; SONY ESPN & HD, Benevento vs. Napoli, 1.15 A.M. (MON); SONY TEN 3 & HD.

■ **Bundesliga:** SAT: Mainz vs. Bayern Munich, 8 P.M.; Gladbach vs. RB Leipzig, 11 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 HD, SUN: Hamburger vs. Hannover, 10.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 HD.

■ **NBA:** SAT: New York Knicks vs. Milwaukee Bucks, 6.30 A.M.; Golden State Warriors vs. Sacramento Kings, 9 A.M.; SONY SIX, SUN: Golden State Warriors vs. Denver Nuggets, 7.30 A.M.; Portland Trail Blazers vs. Boston Celtics, 10.30 P.M.; SONY SIX.



ICC Test Rankings			
#	TEAM	M	PTS RATE
1	India	44	5,313 121
2	South Africa	39	4,484 115
3	Australia	40	4,174 104
4	New Zealand	35	3,489 100
5	England	49	4,829 99
6	Sri Lanka	43	4,058 94
7	Pakistan	34	2,988 88
8	West Indies	36	2,606 72
9	Bangladesh	23	1,851 72
10	Zimbabwe	14	12 1

ODI Rankings				
#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	South Africa	53	6,387	121
2	India	56	6,660	119
3	England	59	6,871	116
4	New Zealand	57	6,550	115
5	Australia	57	6,376	112
6	Pakistan	51	4,877	96
7	Bangladesh	39	3,518	90
8	Sri Lanka	72	6,053	84
9	West Indies	43	3,260	76
10	Zimbabwe	45	2,380	53

T20I Rankings				
#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	Pakistan	26	3,272	126
2	New Zealand	21	2,582	123
3	India	28	3,385	121
4	England	17	2,029	119
5	West Indies	22	2,538	115
6	South Africa	20	2,238	112
7	Australia	15	1,665	111
8	Sri Lanka	27	2,385	88
9	Afghanistan	25	2,157	86
10	Bangladesh	17	1,289	76



Men's Top Five				
#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Rafael Nadal	31	9,760	17
2	Roger Federer	36	9,605	17
3	Martin Cilic	29	4,960	22
4	Grigor Dimitrov	26	4,630	23
5	Alexander Zverev	20	4,610	25

Tennys Sandgren (USA)
Rank 55 ▲ 42 spots

Mischa Zverev (GER)
Rank 53 ▼ 18 spots

Women's Top Five				
#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Caroline Wozniacki	27	7,965	22
2	Simona Halep	26	7,715	18
3	Elina Svitolina	23	6,085	19
4	Garbine Muguruza	24	5,680	22
5	Karolina Pliskova	25	5,445	20

Daria Averina (CZE)
Rank 85 ▲ 44 spots

M. Lucic-Baroni (CRO)
Rank 67 ▼ 37 spots

English Premier League Standings		
#	TEAM	GP W D L
1	Manchester City	25 22 2 1
2	Manchester United	25 16 5 4
3	Liverpool	25 14 8 3
4	Chelsea	25 15 5 5
5	Tottenham	25 14 6 5
6	Arsenal	25 12 6 7
7	Burnley	25 9 8 8
8	Leicester City	25 9 7 9
9	Everton	25 8 7 10
10	Bournemouth	25 7 7 11
11	Watford	25 7 6 12
12	West Ham	25 6 9 10
13	Crystal Palace	25 6 8 11
14	Newcastle	25 6 6 13
15	Brighton	25 5 9 11
16	Stoke City	25 6 6 13
17	Huddersfield	25 6 6 13
18	Southampton	25 4 11 10
19	Swansea	25 6 5 14
20	West Brom	25 3 11 11

Spanish La Liga Standings														
L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	# TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	
1	73	18	55	68	1	Barcelona	21	18	3	0	59	10	49	57
4	49	18	31	53	2	Atletico Madrid	21	13	7	1	32	9	23	46
3	57	29	28	50	3	Valencia	21	12	4	5	42	25	17	40
5	45	19	26	50	4	Real Madrid	20	11	5	4	43	19	24	38
5	49	22	27	48	5	Villarreal	21	11	4	6	32	24	8	37
7	46	34	12	42	6	Sevilla	21	10	3	8	27	29	-2	33
8	20	22	-2	35	7	Celta Vigo	21	9	4	8	38	30	8	31
9	37	34	3	34	8	Eibar	21	8	5	8	26	33	-7	29
10	28	40	-12	31	9	Getafe	21	7	7	7	26	21	5	28
11	28	36	-8	28	10	Girona	21	7	7	7	29	29	0	28
12	33	45	-12	27	11	Leganes	20	8	4	8	20	21	-1	28
10	31	43	-12	27	12	Athletic Bilbao	21	6	9	6	24	23	1	27
11	23	38	-15	26	13	Real Betis	21	8	3	10	35	44	-9	27
13	23	35	-12	24	14	Espanyol	21	6	6	9	18	28	-10	24
11	18	34	-16	24	15	Real Sociedad	21	6	5	10	36	40	-4	23
13	25	50	-25	24	16	Levante	21	3	10	8	18	30	-12	19
13	19	46	-25	24	17	Alaves	21	6	1	14	17	31	-14	19
10	25	36	-11	23	18	Deportivo	21	4	5	12	24	46	-22	17
14	38	36	-18	23	19	Las Palmas	21	4	2	15	16	50	-34	14
11	14	34	-15	20	20	Malaga	21	3	4	14	14	34	-20	13

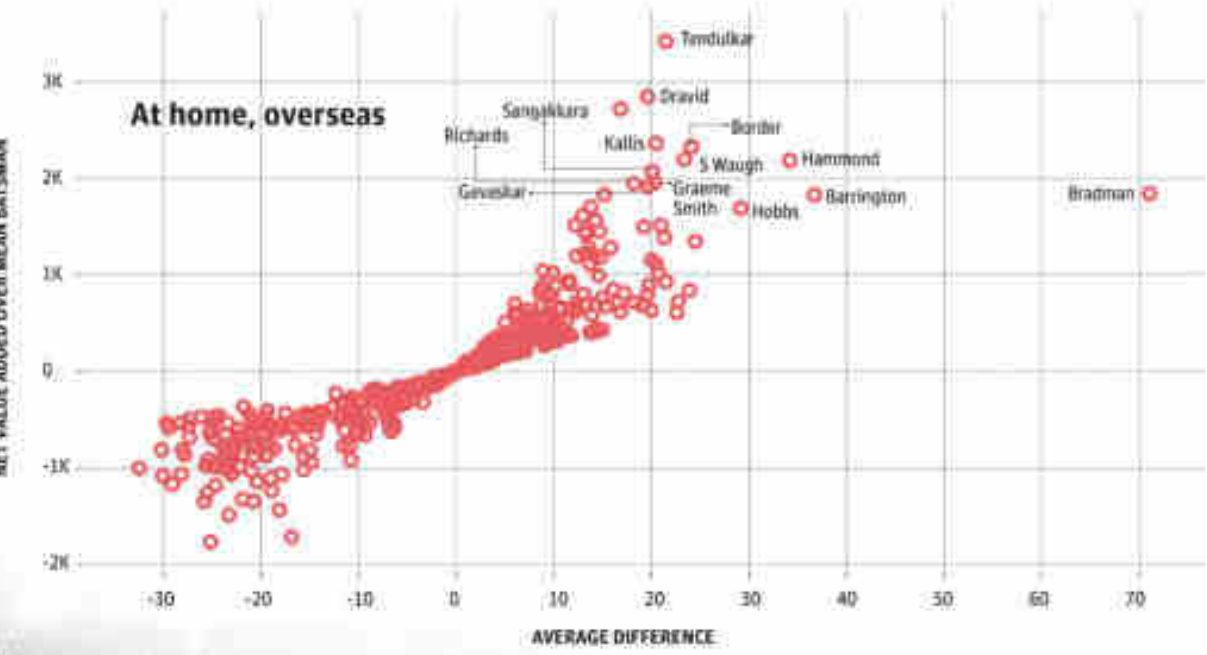
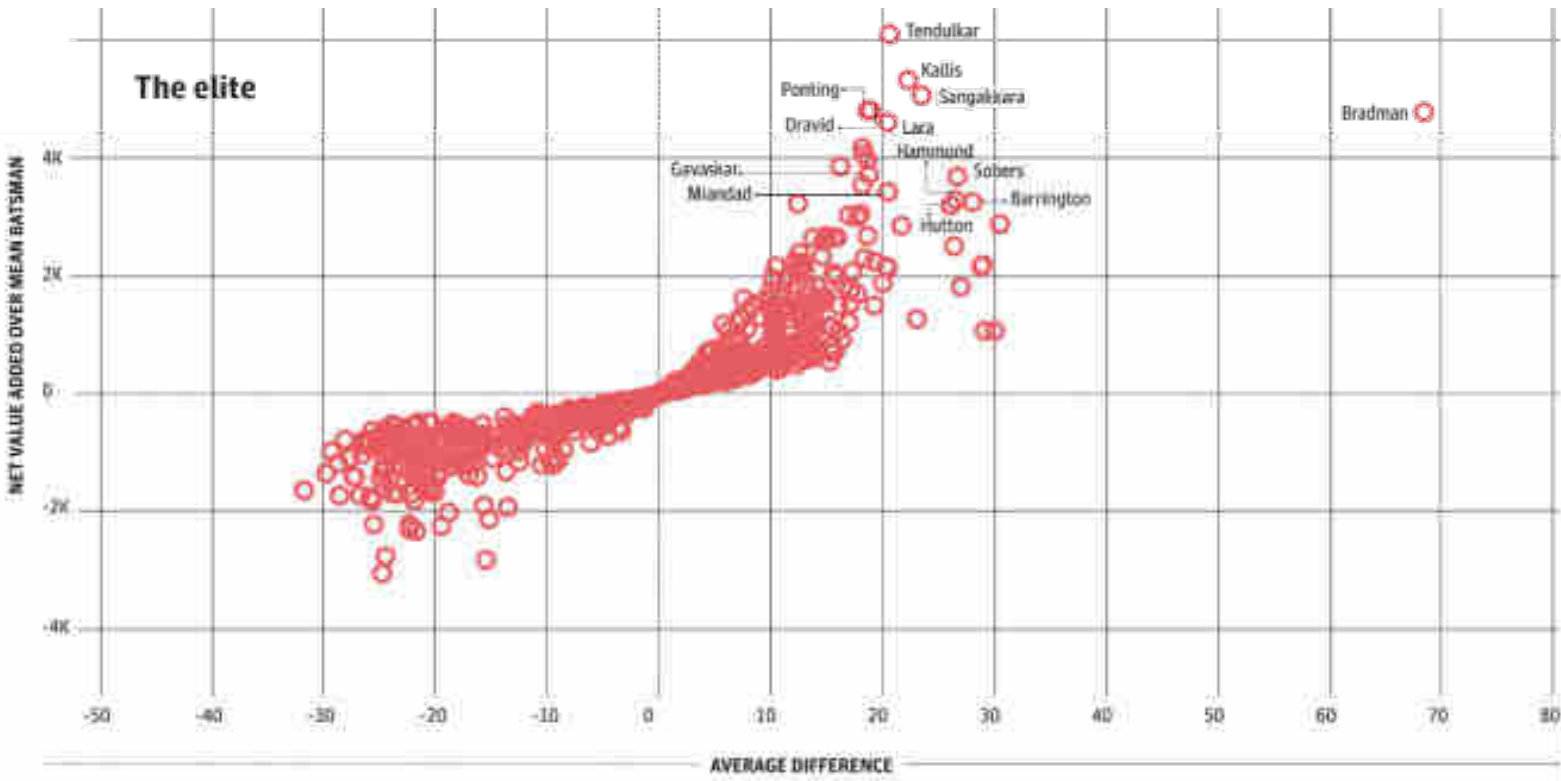
Italian Serie A Standings									
#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	22	18	3	1	48	14	34	57
2	Juventus	22	18	2	2	52	15	37	56
3	Lazio	22	14	4	4	57	27	30	46
4	Inter Milan	22	12	0	2	37	17	20	44
5	Roma	22	12	5	5	32	17	15	41
6	Sampdoria	22	11	4	7	41	31	10	37
7	AC Milan	22	10	4	8	29	28	1	34
8	Atalanta	22	9	6	7	34	27	7	33
9	Udinese	22	10	2	10	35	31	4	32
10	Torino	22	7	11	4	32	28	4	32
11	Fiorentina	22	7	7	8	31	28	3	28
12	Bologna	22	8	3	11	27	33	-6	27
13	Chievo	22	5	7	10	21	39	-18	22
14	Sassuolo	22	6	4	12	14	34	-20	22
15	Genoa	22	5	6	11	16	24	-8	21
16	Cagliari	22	6	3	13	20	34	-14	21
17	Crotone	22	5	4	13	17	39	-22	19
18	Spei	22	3	8	11	23	40	-17	17
19	Verona	22	4	4	14	22	55	-33	16
20	Benevento	22	2	1	19	13	49	-36	7

German Bundesliga Standings									
#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Bayern Munich	20	16	2	2	49	16	33	50
2	Bayer Leverkusen	20	9	7	4	41	27	14	34
3	Schalke	20	9	7	4	32	25	7	34
4	Eintracht Frankfurt	20	9	6	5	26	20	6	33
5	RB Leipzig	20	9	5	6	32	29	3	32
6	Borussia Dortmund	20	8	7	5	42	27	15	31
7	M'gladbach	20	9	4	7	30	32	-2	31
8	FC Augsburg	20	7	7	6	29	26	3	28
9	Hoffenheim	20	7	6	7	31	32	-1	27
10	Hannover 96	20	7	6	7	28	30	-2	27
11	Hertha Berlin	20	6	8	6	27	27	0	26
12	SC Freiburg	20	5	9	6	22	35	-13	24
13	Wolfsburg	20	4	11	5	23	24	-1	23
14	Stuttgart	20	6	2	12	16	26	-10	20
15	Mainz	20	5	5	10	24	33	-11	20
16	Werder Bremen	20	3	8	9	16	25	-9	17
17	Hamburg	20	4	4	12	16	29	-13	16
18	Cologne	20	3	4	13	15	34	-19	13

Tying it together

What we have are two different variables which need to be combined to isolate the elite batsmen. The economist Nicholas Rohde approached a similar problem using an econometric method to rank the best batsmen in a paper titled "An economic ranking of batters in Test cricket" in 2011.

A less sophisticated method is to plot both variables – average difference and runs-above-mean-batsman – in a scatter graph and identify the highest bracket of intersection. This bracket is set at runs-above-mean-batsman greater than 3000 – close to half of the highest value – and average difference of 18.8, which is close to 30% of the highest value (that of Don Bradman). Some batsmen lie just outside the periphery of this top bracket (Steve Waugh – average diff: 18.7 and runs-above: 3991; Allan Border – 18.4 and 4064; Steve Smith – 30.5 and 2896; and Greg Chappell – 21.7 and 2882). The elite batsmen are identified in the plot.



The away equation

We use the same method to identify who the best batsmen in away Tests were. Doing well in alien conditions, being forced to step out of your comfort zone, is a trait that is highly valued. Bradman, Hammonds, Barrington, Tendulkar, Allan Border, Steve Waugh, Kallis, Dravid, Sangakkara, Graeme Smith, Gavaskar, Viv Richards and Jack Hobbs were found to be the best performers overseas.

GRAPHIC: RANJAN SUNDAR
GRAPH: VEDHESH PADHAK/REHMAN
SOURCE: ESPNCRICKINFO

Griezmann, Atletico's leading man

Under Diego Simeone, the French attacker has evolved into one of the most complete footballers in the world

Until last month, Antoine Griezmann and Atletico Madrid weren't part of La Liga's most popular storylines. Barcelona's dominance, Valencia's fairytale early-season surge and Real Madrid's struggles made the headlines.

But things changed in January. Both Griezmann and Atletico seemed to gain momentum and – as they prepare for Valencia's visit on Sunday – look the most interesting of Barcelona's challengers.

Griezmann scored four and created two in seven games (across all competitions) in January, two goals and two assists coming in four Liga matches.

The uptick in his end-product has helped Atletico climb to second on the table, still 11 points behind Barca, but six ahead of third-placed Valencia.

"I started the year well and I hope I can continue like that: with goals and hard work," Griezmann told beIN Sports after the 3-0 win over Las Palmas last weekend.

The Frenchman is an important part of Diego Simeone's plans at Atletico. His goal against Las Palmas was his 94th since arriving in Madrid four seasons ago – it established him as the top-scorer of the Simeone era.

But it isn't just the numbers.

Following Diego Costa's injury, Griezmann lifted his level, opening the scoring in three straight matches. This blossoming under pressure and responsibility is the trait Simeone most prizes. And under the Argentine, the 26-year-old has developed into one of the most complete footballers in the world.

A wide, goal-scoring attacker at Real Sociedad, Griezmann was a quick, clever runner who could cut inside onto his left foot.

Simeone has recast him each season, making him a central player, layering the forward's game to meet the tactical demands of a team set up on a relatively modest budget.

Griezmann was initially deployed in the first counter-attacking line: his role was to offer the ball-carrier a passing option on the break. He was capable of scoring after outpacing his marker or after combining with the other attacker. He also provided width, stretching the backline so the interior players could run into space from deep.

But increasingly Simeone has used Griezmann differently. Out of possession, he defends deeper. When Atletico wins the ball, he often acts as the brains of the move, deciding whether to initiate a counter and directing it. He still provides the width and depth of a forward, when needed, but his playmaking role has evolved significantly.

This has made him incredibly flexible – a tactically intelligent team-player who dictates the side's tempo and decision-making, and steps forward to score and create.

It's no surprise that the big clubs – Real Madrid, Barcelona and Manchester United, reported suitors – are keeping tabs. Simeone and Atletico would want to hold on to him, but an £88 million buyout clause could take them out of the equation.

Griezmann isn't thinking that far ahead. "We have two competitions left [Liga and Europa League]," he said this week, "and we will fight to the end."



Sunil Gavaskar



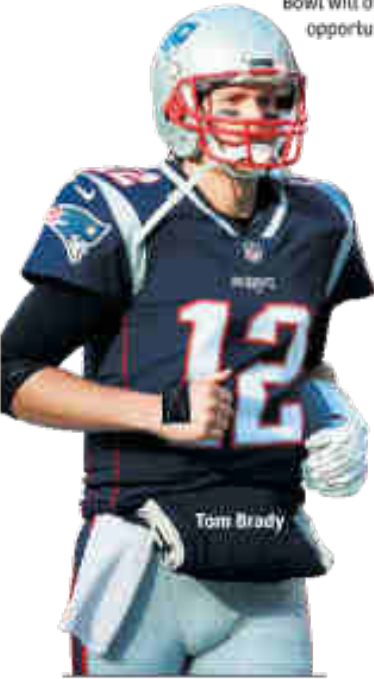
Jacques Kallis



GAME THEORY

Super Bowl Sunday

The Super Bowl, the annual championship game of America's National Football League (NFL), will be played on Sunday. The game's massive popularity in North America makes it second only to the UEFA Champions League final as the most watched annual sporting event worldwide. The 52nd edition of the Super Bowl will offer the New England Patriots and star quarterback Tom Brady the opportunity to make history when they take on the Philadelphia Eagles



Most wins				
Team	Appearances	Wins	First title	Most recent title
Pittsburgh Steelers	8	6	1974	2010
Dallas Cowboys	11	5	1970	1995
New England Patriots	10	5	1985	2017
San Francisco 49ers	6	5	1981	2012
Green Bay Packers	5	4	1966	2010
New York Giants	5	4	1986	2011

Most championship rings as player

CHARLES HALEY
San Francisco 49ers/
Dallas Cowboys
5

TOM BRADY
New England Patriots
5

Dominance of the quarterback

- The numbers pertaining to the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award – the Super Bowl's man-of-the-match – are skewed heavily towards the quarterback position
- This isn't surprising. The quarterback is, by far, the most influential player in the sport. Not only does he "call the play" i.e. tell his team how an offensive move will be run, he also touches the ball on almost every offensive play

MVP wins by position	
Quarterback	18
Running back	7
Wide receiver	6
Linebacker	4
Defensive end	3
Safety	2
Cornerback	1
Defensive tackle	1
Kick returner/punt returner	1

Tom Brady holds the record for the most career Super Bowl touchdown passes – 15

Most MVP wins			
Player	Team	Position	Wins
Tom Brady	New England Patriots	Quarterback	4
Joe Montana	San Francisco 49ers	Quarterback	3
Terry Bradshaw	Pittsburgh Steelers	Quarterback	2
Eli Manning	New York Giants	Quarterback	2
Bart Starr	Green Bay Packers	Quarterback	2

PICTURE THIS



Flirting with danger

Ever since Hawaiian Garrett McNamara first set the world record for the biggest wave surfed – at Nazaré, Portugal, in 2011 – big wave surfing has gained popularity. With McNamara improving this record from 78ft to 100ft in 2013,

Nazare has become the go-to destination for surfers hoping to ride a monster. The hosting of surf festivals has brought about a change of reputation for the Praia do Norte beach, regarded as something of an enemy by the locals because of the deaths of several fishermen and tourists.

Nazare is special because it sits on a deep canyon under water, creating favourable conditions to generate these giant waves.

As one might gather, big wave surfing is very, very dangerous. Surfers can be pushed down 20-50 feet, and often have only about 20

seconds to get back to the surface before the next wave. Even more dangerous is the possibility of getting trapped under two giant waves.

The water pressure can rupture eardrums and if one is slammed against a rock or reef, it can even result in death.

The water pressure can rupture eardrums and if one is slammed against a rock or reef, it can even result in death.

Nominations open for ACJ award

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Nominations are now open for the Asian College of Journalism Awards for investigative journalism. The award will have a citation, trophy and ₹2,00,000 in prize money.

The Media Development Foundation (MDF), the trust that administers ACJ, is inviting journalists and news organisations to send in entries for consideration by the awards committee and jury, a press release said.

The ACJ awards for investigative journalism are usually given in two categories: print/online and audio-visual categories.

However, for 2017, the awards committee has decided to suspend the audio-visual category due to lack of participation in the previous two editions. The ACJ Awards for the year 2017 will be presented only in the print/digital category on May 3, 2018, World Press Freedom Day.

Nominations can be sent in till March 2.

Any journalistic work that was published during January to December 2017 is eligible for nomination by a news organisation or journalists, including freelancers. There can be up to five members comprising a team that can be nominated for an award. The awards committee will accept nominations online or by post. Details for nominations can be accessed and uploaded at asianmedia.in

MIFF: Selection jury protests film exclusion

Directors request I&B Ministry to reconsider decision

NAMRATA JOSHI MUMBAI

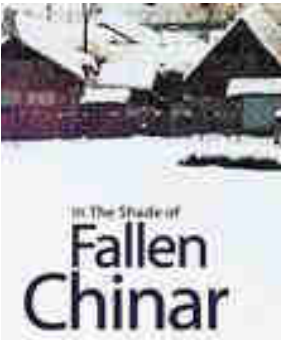
At the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2017, the members of the Indian Panorama selection jury took on the Information and Broadcasting Ministry for the exclusion of two films, *Nude* and *S Durga*, from the final line-up.

Now it is the turn of the selection committee members of the national competition section at the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF 2018) for documentaries, shorts and animation to register their protest against the exclusion of *In the Shade of the Fallen Chinari* directed by Fazil N.C. and Shawn Sebastian.

The film features in the festival's brochure and was scheduled for public screening on January 29, 2018, but wasn't eventually shown.

A joint statement signed by nine of the 12 members stated: "We stand in solidarity with the filmmakers and strongly condemn this act of censorship."

The signatories include filmmakers Anupama Srinivasan, Priyanka Chhabra, Gautam Sonti, Amudhan R.P., Sudarshan Juyal, Rani Day Burra, Sandhya Kumar,



Poster of a short film by Fazil N.C. and Shawn Sebastian.

Yapangnaro Longkumer and film writer and critic Shoma Chatterjee.

When contacted, festival director Manish Desai said the 16-minute short documentary continues to officially be a part of the competition but cannot be screened publicly under the provisions stipulated in the Cinematograph Act.

Denied exemption

For a public screening it has to have either a censor certificate or an exemption from the Ministry. "If certified we are open to screening it any time till the closing ceremony," said Mr. Desai.

The film has been denied exemption for MIFF by the Ministry but reportedly

without giving any clear reason.

The documentary was also denied exemption for International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK) last year. The film has since been uploaded on YouTube and has over 1 lakh views.

On Friday, a protest was held outside the Films Division building. The MIFF director has forwarded three appeals – from the selection committee, the film directors and the delegates – to the Ministry requesting reconsideration, along with his own letter of appeal.

According to selection committee member, Anupama Srinivasan, the film is all about a space for arts for the young people of the Valley: it pitches the soothing touch of art against the turmoil. "On what basis are they stopping its screening?" wondered Ms. Srinivasan, conjecturing that it could be because of the "Azaadi" chants at the beginning of the film.

The biennial festival, organised by the Films Division of the I&B Ministry, kicked off on January 28 and will come to a close on Saturday.

Cashews bring health benefits: study

RAMYA KANNAN CHENNAI

Not all cashews are bad news. Beginning with this hypothesis, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry sponsored a randomised control study on consumption of cashews.

The study, done in Chennai, went on to prove health benefits for those eating raw cashews. Besides reducing

blood pressure, the nuts also increased HDL (good cholesterol), said a paper published in the latest edition of the *Journal of Nutrition*.

"This particular study was done on cashew consumption among diabetics," says V. Mohan, director, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai, and lead author.

"This was a 12-week inter-

vention trial where we gave 30 gm of raw cashews – not roasted or fried, or salted, or spiced – daily to the intervention arm participants," Dr. Mohan explains.

After 12 weeks, there was a reportedly a significant decrease in the systolic blood pressure in the group that consumed cashews and a significant increase in the good cholesterol levels.

LIC's Services

TRUST AND TECHNOLOGY

LIC App : Har Pal Aapke Saath

PRESENTING

LIC MyLIC

The 3-in-1 App that enables you to Access LIC Anytime, Anywhere.

LIC Customer App

Register for e-Services

View registered policies

Online premium payment

Premium paid statements

Revival quotations

Loan and claim status enquiry

Email and SMS alerts

Buy Online Policies

LIC PayDirect App

The simplest way to pay your premium through Internet Banking / Debit Card / Credit Card / eWallets / UPI / BHIM without registration

Repay your loan / pay interest on your loan

View transaction status

LIC Quick Quotes App

Get an instant premium quotation for your choice of policy to help you understand the plan better.

Download MyLIC app on your smartphone or visit www.licindia.in

app is available on

App Store

Google play

Follow us on

Facebook

Twitter

LinkedIn

YouTube

LIC India Partner

LIC

BEWARE of spurious phone calls and fictitious / fraudulent offers. IRDAI clarifies to public that IRDAI or its officials do not involve in activities like sale of any kind of insurance or financial products nor invest premiums. IRDAI does not announce any bonus. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint along with details of phone call, number.

IRDAI Regn No.: 512

TRUST - Thy Name is LIC

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

CONVERGENCE 2018
Global Investors Summit - Feb 18-20

Shri Devendra Fadnavis
Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Welcome to Maharashtra, the one state that is truly

#MadeForBusiness

The Government of Maharashtra invites you to participate in its first-ever GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT-CONVERGENCE 2018 from 18th to 20th February. EXHIBITION continues from 18th to 23rd February, 2018 at MMRDA Grounds, BKC, Mumbai.

Business visitors - 10:00 am to 02:00 pm
General visitors - 02:00 pm to 06:00 pm

Spread across 50,000 square metres, the exhibition will see participation from some of the biggest names in the corporate world and will showcase the following:

- Region-wise strengths of Maharashtra
- Current Infrastructure Projects
- An international pavilion that will exhibit the latest technology
- Industrial development seen across Automobiles, Defence, IT/ITeS and other sectors
- A gamut of products and services that are representative of the State

To register for the exhibition, visit www.midcindia.org

<https://telegram.me/Estore33>

CM YK

PMR 2018

A NO-NDE



3 juveniles apprehended
A day after a 14-year-old died, three students were held for allegedly beating him up in the school washroom **Page 3**



Elegance meets claustrophobia
Paul Thomas Anderson and Daniel Day-Lewis collaborate once again to narrate a haunting and stylish tale **Page 4**



Meet the mentor
In a candid conversation, ace fashion photographer Atul Kasbekar unravels the inside story of modelling business **Page 5**



Chikankari in a French twist
Palak Shah is confident about changing how the world perceives Indian handlooms **Page 6**

IN BRIEF



Use face recognition software, police told
NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court has asked the city police to run a facial recognition software developed by a foreign company on trial basis to trace and rescue missing children, following the government's inability to immediately develop such a software. A Bench of Justice S. Muralidhar and Justice I.S. Mehta said the trial run of the software by the Delhi Police should start from February 20.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

6-yr-old dies in hospital; sexual assault suspected

NEW DELHI
A six-year-old girl died on Friday, a day after she was admitted to a city hospital with multiple internal injuries. Doctors suspect the girl was sexually assaulted. The body has been sent for post-mortem. "The child was in decompensated septic shock with respiratory failure and multi-organ dysfunction," read a statement issued by Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

In a relief to traders, DDA to introduce uniform FAR

Urban body proposes amendments to Delhi Master Plan - 2021; reduction in penalty charges for violation of terms and conditions of mixed use

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

In a relief to traders protesting against the ongoing sealing drive in the Capital, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday proposed amendments to the Delhi Master Plan - 2021.

The amendments, which include the provision for a uniform Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for residential as well as commercial plots, were announced by the authority following a meeting chaired by Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal, who is also the chairman of the DDA, the authority said in a statement.

'Public grievance'

"It has been proposed to provide uniform FAR in shop-cum-residence plots or complexes at par with the residential plots as given on mixed use street which will depend on the size of the plot and subject to availability of parking," the statement said adding that the ongoing sealing drive had resulted in "public grievance" leading to the proposed amendments.

"Issues were also raised by the local bodies with respect to absence of provisions



for shop-cum-residence plots, which came up after MPD-1962 and development control norms for shop-cum-residential plots/complex, declared as commercial centres," the urban body said.

FAR is the ratio of a building's total floor area (gross floor area) to the size of the piece of land upon which it is built.

Civic bodies in north, south and central Delhi have been carrying out sealing drives, which began in December, with action against over 50 shops in Defence Colony Market, at the instance of a Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee.

The DDA, according to the statement, further an-

nounced that penalty charges will be reduced from 10 times to two times for violation of the terms and conditions of mixed use.

The authority also said that the provisions of parking will be mandatory for approval or sanctioning of any revised plans by the local body.

Basement activities

"Parking shall be calculated as stated for respective category [plot size] of residential plot/plotted development. In case the required parking as per norms is not possible on the existing development/plot, provisions for public parking have been made" the statement said.

Additionally, as a relief to

commercial activity in the Capital, the DDA said that commercial operation in basements would be permitted. "Commercial activity in the basements will be allowed in all commercial streets/areas subject to payment of requisite charges without any discrimination," the authority said further.

The urban body also proposed amendments to the norms for redevelopment of godown clusters existing in non-conforming areas at the meeting.

"Non-conforming clusters of godowns or warehousing activities of minimum four hectares contiguous area and having concentration of more than 55% plots within the clusters may be considered for redevelopment of area. The redevelopment shall be completed within a period of three years from the date of approval of such plans," the authority said.

In accordance with the Central government notification issued on January 31, the DDA said, the period of public notice had been reduced from 45 days to three days during which suggestions and objections could be put forth.

BJP welcomes proposals

Takes potshots at AAP govt over notification of 351 roads

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday hailed as "historic" the decisions to make suitable provisions in the Delhi Master Plan - 2021 to provide relief to traders and shopkeepers from the ongoing sealing drive in the Capital.

Party committed

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly Vijender Gupta said these were "milestones" and reflected that the BJP and the Centre were committed to protecting the interests of the aggrieved even as he criticised the Delhi government for its "stubborn attitude" for the delay in notifying 351 roads for commercial activity and mixed land use.

"The proposals passed by the L-G – higher floor area ratio (FAR), reduced conversion charges, reduction of penalty from 10 to two times and regularising agriculture



The proposals passed by the L-G have assured new hope of relief to lakhs of traders, professionals, educational institutions, their employees and clients and consumers

VIJENDER GUPTA
Leader of Opposition in Delhi Legislative Assembly

godowns – have assured new hope of relief to lakhs of traders, professionals, educational institutions, their

employees and clients and consumers," Mr. Gupta said.

Frivolous objections

Meanwhile, Mr. Gupta questioned the delay in the notification of 351 roads for commercial activity and mixed land use despite a Municipal Corporation of Delhi resolution that a survey had been carried out by the local bodies and the list must be notified as per rule within 90 days.

"The Municipal Corporation has been consistently writing to the Delhi government for notification. But it kept on sleeping. It has been raising frivolous objections only to give political mileage at the cost of Delhi. The Mayor and Standing Committee chairman wrote letters in the year 2014 itself to CM Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia to expedite the matter but the Delhi government paid no attention to this crucial issue," he alleged.

Traders to continue strike

8 lakh shops, 1.5 lakh factories shut on Day 1 of 'Delhi Bandh'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Over 8 lakh shops and 1.5 lakh factories remained shut on Friday, the first day of 'Delhi Bandh' called by the city traders against the ongoing sealing drive by the Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee and civic bodies.

Despite the proposal by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to bring about uniform floor area ratio (FAR) for shops-cum-residential plots and reducing of penalty charges for violation of other conditions, the traders said that the strike will continue on Saturday and Sunday. "This is just a proposal and unless we know the provisions under it, and till the sealing drives are completely halted and the bandh will continue," said Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general of Confedera-

This is just a proposal and unless we know the provisions under it, and till the sealing drives are completely halted, the bandh will continue

PRAVEEN KHANDLWAL
CAIT secretary general

tion of All India Traders (CAIT), an umbrella body of trade groups.

The markets that were severely hit by the bandh included Chandni Chowk, Karol Bagh, Sadar Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Bhagirath Place, Defence Colony, Green Park, and Sadar Bazar among other areas.

According to the CAIT, all wholesale and commercial markets in Delhi were shut in protest against the sealing drive. Civic bodies in north, south and central Delhi have

taken action against more than 50 shops in the Defence Colony market on the directions of the apex court-appointed monitoring committee for failing to deposit conversion charges according to the civic bodies.

Hampering development

"Multiple authorities are working in Delhi without coordination which is hampering the planned development. The Centre should set up a special task force under the Lieutenant Governor to ensure timely and planned development according to the Master Plan," CAIT secretary general Praveen Khandelwal said.

The CAIT claimed the two-day strike will lead to a loss of crores of rupees.

"There should be no sealing or penal action in a special area until a redevelopment plan is drafted and put into action," it said.



For their rights: Traders take out a march against the sealing drive, at Bikanerwala Chowk in Karol Bagh on Friday. **SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR**

Will continue to support traders: AAP

Blames BJP for ruining livelihoods

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday said that they will continue to support the traders of the national Capital against the sealing drive till the BJP is in the Centre and the Delhi municipalities.

Addressing a press conference at the party office in Rouse Avenue, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, blamed the BJP for ruining the livelihoods of over seven lakh traders in the city.

'Making excuses'

"Instead of finding a solution to the problem of sealing, the BJP is busy making up excuses for their inaction," Mr. Singh said.

He said that only the BJP can provide relief to the traders as it is their government in the Centre, the

municipalities. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is under them and even the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi is appointed by the Centre.

'Bid to silence us'

"All our councillors in the east, south or north Delhi municipal corporations have raised the issue of sealing in the House. But they have only attempted to silence us," he said.

Mr. Singh said that they had raised the issue of sealing in the Rajya Sabha and the councillors led by senior party leader Dilip Pandey is also sitting on an indefinite hunger strike outside the Civic Centre.

Apart from this, CM Arvind Kejriwal has also written to the L-G requesting him to make alterations to the Delhi Master Plan 2021.

Dhaura Kuan gang rape: HC upholds sentence

Convicts' plea against life term rejected

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has upheld the life imprisonment awarded to five convicts in the 2010 Dhaura Kuan gang-rape case in which a 30-year-old BPO woman executive from the Northeast was raped by five men inside a moving vehicle.

A Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice P.S. Teji dismissed the appeals of five convicts saying that not only the victim but her deposition was corroborated by her friend, who was with her at the time of abduction.

'Testimony reliable'

"The testimony of the prosecutrix [victim] is natural, reliable, credible and trustworthy, free from any kind of glitches," the Bench observed.

The Bench upheld the life term awarded to the five

convicts – Usman alias Kale, Shamshad alias Khutkan, Shahid alias Chhota Billi, Iqbal alias Bada Billi and Kamruddin alias Mobile, all residents of Mewat region in Haryana by a trial court here in 2014.

"It has been established beyond reasonable doubt that all the appellants [convicts] kidnapped the prosecutrix on the fateful night of 23/24 November, 2010, and then committed rape upon her in the vehicle," the Bench said.

The victim and her friend, both BPO employees, on that night were dropped by their office cab at Moti Bagh.

The victim was abducted by the five men at about 1.10-1.15 a.m. in a pickup vehicle, while she and her friend were walking to their home.

Her friend had immediately made a complaint to the police.

Khyala remains tense after 23-year-old murdered by lover's kin

Girl's family members, including minor brother, held; they were against the interfaith relationship

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Tension prevailed in Khyala area of west Delhi after a 23-year-old man was stabbed to death by the family members of a girl with whom he was in a relationship for the past three years, on Thursday night.

"Security has been tightened and additional police force has been deployed due to sensitiveness of the matter as the deceased and the girl belonged to different communities," said Vijay Kumar, DCP (west).

The police told that a PCR call was received at 9 p.m. about a man being stabbed in Raghuvir Nagar area of Khyala. When the police team reached the spot, they were informed that the injured man's family had taken him to Guru Gobind Singh Hospital for treatment. On reaching the hospital, they were informed that the doctors had declared the man brought dead.

The police had then shifted the body to the mortuary



Ankit Saxena

in Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital for medical examination.

Verbal duel

According to preliminary investigation, Ankit Saxena, who worked as a freelance photographer, was in a relationship with a 20-year-old girl belonging to the Muslim community. The girl's family was, however, against their relationship.

Mr. Kumar said that the girl, on Thursday, had an argument with her parents over her affair with Ankit as they were against the rela-



On alert: Police personnel patrol outside the residence of Ankit Saxena in west Delhi on Friday. **SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR**

tionship. After the argument escalated, she left her house locking the main gate from outside. She went to Tagore Garden metro station and informed Ankit to pick her up from the metro station, he said. "Her parents managed to unbolt the main gate and expecting their daughter with Ankit, rushed towards

his house that is only a few metres away. They got him near his house when he was on the way to meet the girl. They stopped his scooter and a scuffle began. The girl's father stabbed him in the neck while other family members – mother, uncle and a minor brother – had pinned Ankit down," added

Mr. Kumar. Thereafter, all of them fled from the spot, the police said. "They also thrashed Ankit's mother Kamlesh who tried to save her son during the fight. His father was not at home at the time of the incident. He was taken to hospital by his mother in an auto," said a police officer.

Security has been tightened and additional police force has been deployed due to sensitiveness of the matter as the deceased and the girl belonged to different communities

VIJAY KUMAR
DCP (west)

"We have registered a murder case against the person involved in the murder at Khyala police station. All of the accused have been arrested. The minor brother of the girl has also been apprehended," added Mr. Kumar.

Body cremated

He added that after the post-mortem, the body was handed over to the family members and it has been cremated under heavy police presence.

'THEY KILLED MY SON IN FRONT OF MY EYES' ▶ PAGE 3



Finish cross-examination of Jaitley, HC tells CM

NEW DELHI
The Delhi HC on Friday directed Arvind Kejriwal to wind up on February 12 cross-examination of Arun Jaitley in a defamation suit filed by the Union minister against the CM and five other AAP leaders. A day after presenting the Union Budget, Jaitley went to the HC where heated exchanges were witnessed during his cross-examination. PTI

Blaze in Peeragarhi, fireman injured

NEW DELHI
A fire broke out at a shoe factory in Peeragarhi and one fireman was injured during the operation, said a DFS official. Around 2.50 a.m. we received a call and 20 firetenders were pressed into service, added the official. Blaze was doused by 10.20 a.m. but cause is yet to be ascertained. PTI

Trainee IAS officers visit Delhi slums

NEW DELHI
Delhi government's Urban Development Department organised a visit of trainee IAS officers to slum areas to show them conditions of lowest strata in urban areas. "Visit showed how easy access to healthcare is planned," said official. PTI

Three juveniles held for beating classmate to death

Students thrashed the victim in the school washroom; one accused absconding

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

A day after a 14-year-old boy was declared dead at the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, three 15-year-old students were apprehended on Friday for allegedly beating him up in the school washroom.
The police said another student involved in the incident is absconding.
The boy was found unconscious in the washroom on Thursday morning after which he was rushed to a private hospital by the teachers. The hospital referred him to the GTB Hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Murder case
The boy's family alleged that he was beaten to death, after which a case was initially registered under Section 304A (causing death due to negligence) of the IPC and the investigation was taken up. "We scanned the CCTV footage and found that the victim went inside the washroom and four boys followed him," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North East) A.K. Singla said, adding that charges were later amended to Section 302 (murder).
Mr. Singla also said the



Keeping vigil: Policemen outside the residence of the victim on Friday. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

fourth accused had been identified but when his house was raided he, along with his family, was found to be absconding.
The victim's post mortem was conducted on Friday and his body handed over to the family for last rites.
Recalling the incident, the victim's 28-year-old cousin said the family was informed by the boy's classmates that the five got into a fight during the prayer assembly early morning. "We were told that there was a

fight over the position in the queue between him and his classmate. The others got involved later," he said.
The cousin said the four of them followed the boy to the washroom when he took a break between classes. "
Negligence by school
The doctors and the police told us that he died because he couldn't breathe. One boy covered the victim's mouth while three others punched him in the stomach and chest," he said.

Mr. Singla, however, said the police were awaiting the post-mortem report to ascertain the cause of death.
The family was initially told, allegedly by the school principal, that the boy had fallen ill in the school and was taken to the hospital.
However, when the family reached the hospital after the call, they were told by the doctors that he died in the school itself.
The police said they were probing the school's negligence.

'They killed my son in front of my eyes'

Ankit's mother says no one came to his rescue

**SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI**

"I pleaded to them to leave my son but the family members, including the mother of the girl, killed my son in front of my eyes. It all happened in the middle of the road but no one came to rescue my son. He died in my arms," said Kamlesh, Ankit's mother.
Ankit, 23, was the only child of Kamlesh and Yash Pal. He had a passion for photography, which he turned into a career after his father, who is a heart patient, retired two years ago.
Before retirement his father used to work as a peon with a private firm.
A policeman said that the girl's family was fixing her marriage with a man belonging to their community but she was not agreeing to it.
The family members blamed Ankit for this, he added. The girl is pursuing a BA degree through distant learning.
Families had fought
Around three years ago, both the families used to live in the same lane of Raghuvir Nagar, RG flat, but after the girl's family got to know about the relationship, they had a fight with the boy's family over the issue. The families never had any communication thereafter. We had never received any police complaint regarding any scuffle between the families," said a police official.
The family of girl was



Ankit's relatives outside his residence at Raghuvir Nagar in Khyala on Friday. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

against their relationship and was forcing her to marry a person of their own community, said the police.
"We have discovered that around three ago, when the girl's family got to know about their relationship, they had a fight with the boy's family over the issue. The families never had any communication thereafter. We had never received any police complaint regarding any scuffle between the families," said a police official.

The girl's mother owns a beauty parlour and her father works as a driver.
We were clueless about the relationship since after they moved, said Kamlesh.
"They all held my son and the girl's father stabbed him in the neck. He bled profusely and collapsed on the spot. They also kicked and punched him when I tried to save my son. I begged them to spare him but they killed my son mercilessly," said Ankit's mother.

6-year-old dies in hospital; sexual assault suspected

Was admitted on Thursday with multiple internal injuries

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

A six-year-old girl died on Friday, a day after she was admitted to a city hospital with multiple internal injuries. Doctors suspect the girl was sexually assaulted. The body has been sent for post-mortem.
"The child was in decompensated septic shock with respiratory failure and multi-organ dysfunction," read a statement issued by Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.
Sent for post mortem
DCP (outer) M. N. Tiwari said: "The body has been sent for post-mortem. Doctors suspect sexual assault in the case but will be able to confirm only after the reports are out."
The family members

have not alleged sexual assault either, he added.
The child was brought to the paediatric emergency ward around 3.57 p.m. on Thursday.
A senior police officer said that at the time of admission, the girl was bleeding from injuries to her private parts.
"On detailed examination, the doctors suspected sexual assault for which a medico legal report was asked for. Despite the best efforts of the doctors, the child expired at 12.45 a.m. on Friday. Primary medical reports suggest the girl had died due to severe infection," said Mr. Tiwari.
Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson Swati Maliwal met the hospital's doctors on Friday to

review the matter.
Maliwal meets doc
"I met the doctors and from the reports it seems that there was a tear in the vaginal and anal area which can happen because of sexual assault. I met the father but he has asked for time to be able to speak to us. At the moment the parents might not be alleging sexual assault but the reports seems to suggest that," said Ms. Maliwal.
The incident comes just days after an eight-month-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by her 28-year-old cousin in Shakurpur Basti.
The child had suffered severe injuries, and had to undergo a surgery. She is currently in special care.

Sorry sight



A heap of garbage lies on a road in Khajoori Khas on Friday. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

₹1.25 crore compensation to kin of CRPF constable killed in road accident

Victim was travelling with his wife and nine-year-old daughter on a bike when they were hit by a truck; all three succumbed to injuries

**NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI**

A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) has awarded a compensation of ₹1.25 crore to the parents and two minor sons of a CRPF constable who died in a road accident after being hit by a speeding truck in 2016.
The affidavit, filed by the victim's father, stated that

Raj Kumar was drawing a salary of ₹85,689 per month at the time of the accident.
Mr. Kumar along with his wife and nine-year-old daughter were travelling on a motorcycle when a truck hit them from behind killing them on the spot near Kalindi Kunj Road in southeast Delhi.
Granting the compensa-

tion, Presiding Officer Raj Kumar Chauhan said: "I hereby award ₹97,23,040 to the petitioners for the fatal injuries suffered by deceased Raj Kumar and an additional ₹6,79,760 for fatal injuries suffered by minor deceased Ritu, and ₹21,58,600 for fatal injuries suffered by deceased Seema Devi (Mr. Kumar's wife) with interest at the rate

of 9% from the date of filing of present detailed accident report till the date of realisation of the amount in favour of the petitioners and against the respondents."
The driver and the owner of the offending vehicle opposed the compensation claim submitting that the accident had taken place due to negligent driving of the

two-wheeler by the deceased and not due to the fault by the driver.
Negligent driving
They further submitted that Mr. Kumar was driving the two-wheeler with two other people on board, his child and wife, which is in violation of the traffic rules.
The insurance company

with which the offending vehicle was insured also opposed the petition, submitting that it was not maintainable as the investigating officer has not taken any statement from any eyewitness present on the spot.
It further pleaded that as per the site plan and mechanical inspection report, the driver of the motorcycle

was negligent at the time of accident as he came under the rear wheel of the alleged offending vehicle.
But the Tribunal dismissed their arguments. "The petitioners have been able to prove that the deceased suffered fatal injuries due to rash and negligent driving of the driver (of the offending vehicle)," Mr. Chauhan said.

Warrant against Pranav Ansal

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

A Delhi court has issued a bailable warrant against the son of real estate baron Sushil Ansal for allegedly cheating a former director of his company to the tune of ₹40 crore.
The warrant was issued by Metropolitan Magistrate Harun Pratap last week against Pranav Ansal, the MD of Prime Maxi Mall Management Pvt Ltd, seeking his presence on April 24 after summons to him returned unexecuted.
The court said the summons came back unexecuted with a report that he was out of station and his employee did not receive the summons. "In the facts and circumstances as revealed on record, bailable warrants in the sum of ₹50,000 be issued against the accused on filing of process fee for further proceedings on April 24," the magistrate said. A complaint lodged by businessman Suneel Mangal has alleged that he was offered directorship by Mr. Ansal from 2002-2006 but was forced to resign and was allegedly threatened by the accused and his family with dire consequences.

DELHI TODAY

FEBRUARY 3

Dance: India International Rural Cultural Centre (IRCCN) presents Kathak by Ritushi Chaudhuri at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, No. 2, Punjabi Bagh, 9 a.m. and Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Ramesh Nagar, 11 a.m.
Music: Solo Hindustani vocal performances rendered by Arijit Roy, followed by Sapta Chatterjee at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.
Exhibition: "Earth Worms" a solo show of paintings by Tensing Joseph at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, Mandi House, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Exhibition: "Of Miles and Me" - solo photography exhibition by Nipun Nayyar at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Exhibition: "Lalit Pushp" - a solo fine arts show by Jolly Sharma at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society (AIFACS), 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 4

Music Talk: Lecture and demonstration by Pt. Gokulotsav Maharaj reflecting on how young musicians should cultivate a

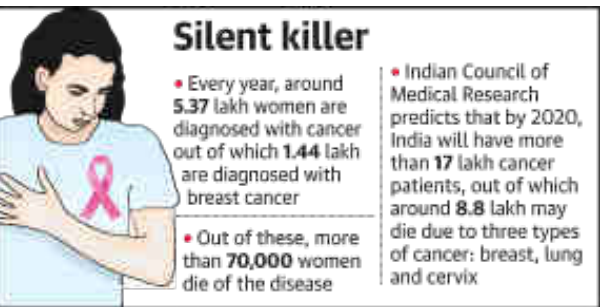
disciplined life style to perfect riyaz. Ust. Akhtar Hasan will accompany on the tabla at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.
Music: Concert - Greek Melodies. Four Greek Musicians will perform traditional songs from the Greek Islands - old Rebetico, melodic improvisations. Musicians: Nikos Paraoulakis (ney); James Wylie (politiki lyra); Avergini Gatsi (voice, accordion); and Timotheos Atzakas (oud) at Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), 6 p.m.
Exhibition: "Ruminating the Purple" Paper collage art show by Sukanta Dasgupta at Shridharani Art Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, Mandi House, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Exhibition: "Soul of Delhi" - solo photography exhibition by Atul Pandita at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Exhibition: Transcending Jerusalem: JLM through Indian Lenses - A group photography exhibition by Indian and Israeli artists at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Exhibition: "Odyssey" - group photography show at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society (AIFACS), 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Three generations of breast cancer in one family

History of the disease in family has helped them spot warning signs early, seek prompt medical treatment

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

When 91-year-old Pushpa Sood was diagnosed with carcinoma in her left breast, it was not entirely unexpected as she had a history of breast cancer. In 1995, she underwent left breast conservative surgery. Even her family had a history, her younger sister was diagnosed with cancer when she was 50 years old.
In 2016, her maternal grand-daughter Niti Vohra noted a lump in her left breast at the age of 39, and was later diagnosed with breast cancer.



Her mother, Asha Kashyap, noticed a lump in her right breast in December 2017 at the age of 68. There were even suspicious lesions on her left breast which were removed during her

treatment.
"Three generations of one family suffered through breast cancer because they carry this legacy in their genes. It is because there is a deep family history of breast cancer, that all the

women in the family are aware of the necessity of doing a self-analysis to keep a vigilant check on the development of any kind of lump," said Dr. Ramesh Sarin, senior consultant, Surgical Oncologist at the Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals.
Breast self-exam
He added that all three women went for a check up as soon as they felt a lump developing in their breast.
"They had no other symptoms and none of them had pain in their breasts. They did regular

breast self-exam, which has been instrumental in saving their lives," said Dr. Sarin.
"While breast cancer can develop due to many reasons, in this case it was evident that genes were playing a crucial role. While Niti only had carcinoma in her left breast, looking at the history of her mother and grandmother - both of whom developed lumps and lesions in both their breasts overtime - we have suggested strict vigilance. Smoking and drinking can also trigger cancerous genes, so they should be avoided," said Dr. Sarin.



Sisodia felicitates NCC cadets for R-Day parade

NEW DELHI
Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday felicitated NCC cadets and their commanding officers here for performing at the Republic Day parade last week. Mr. Sisodia gave away medals and prizes to the NCC cadets at a function organised by the Directorate of NCC at the Delhi Secretariat. **PTI**

Plan to set up ₹100-crore corpus for rare diseases

NEW DELHI
The AAP government informed the Delhi High Court that it will set up a ₹100 crore corpus fund for treatment of rare genetic diseases. The court was also informed that the central government will contribute funds towards the State corpus in the ratio of 60:40. "The Government of Delhi shall keep in mind the fact that the corpus fund of ₹100 crore (already) created by the central government shall lapse on March 31, 2018," the court said. **PTI**

Missing kids: HC asks police to use face recognition software

Trial run of technology developed by a foreign company to start from Feb. 20

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has asked the city police to run a facial recognition software developed by a foreign company on trial basis to trace and rescue missing children, following the government's inability to immediately develop such a software.

A Bench of Justice S. Muralidhar and Justice I.S. Mehta said the trial run of the software, developed by Vision Box, by the Delhi Police should start from February 20. The software could match pictures captured and stored in government database and with real-time pictures captured through CCTV cameras at places like railway stations or airports.

'Can't wait'

The government said that the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) is developing an indigenous software in West Bengal, but did not give a



The software can match pictures from government database with real-time pictures captured through CCTV cameras

time frame as to when it would be completed.

"Waiting for the perfect software to be developed with an open-ended timeline does not serve the purpose of addressing the issue of missing children on an urgent basis," the court said.

Free for 1 year

NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan told the court that Vision Box has agreed to give the software free of cost for the first year, provided it is used only for tracing missing

children.

The Bench was hearing a plea regarding missing children in which it has been examining ways and means to address the issue of tracing them and reuniting them with their families.

Currently, the Delhi Police as well as other childcare institutions are uploading photographs of children who have gone missing or have been found, on ZIPNet (Zonal Integrated Police Network).

The Police database could

be used through 'www.track-themissingchild.gov.in' to search for missing or found children. But the search option is limited to name, age, FIR number, missing date, and physical features of the missing child.

With the state-run National Informatics Centre unable to come up with a 'facial recognition' software, the investigating agencies are facing difficulty in matching the missing children with those recovered and housed in different institutions.

In a recent case of a child who had gone missing from the Capital, the Delhi police had uploaded his details on the ZIPNET on August 31, 2015. The boy was found by the Uttar Pradesh Police near Hindon Air Force base in Ghaziabad on August 31, 2015, and sent to Lal Bahadur Shastri Sudarshan Child Home at Vasundhara, Ghaziabad. It took nearly 10 months for the Delhi Police to trace the missing child.

Court raps govt, agencies over rising dengue cases

Why it has to be only versus? Can't you work together, asks HC

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday pulled up the city government and civic bodies over the rising number of dengue cases in the Capital in January itself.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C. Hari Shankar remarked that the government and the local bodies are engaged in blaming each other instead of actually getting the required work done.

"It is always you (Delhi government) versus the Centre, the corporations, some statutory authority. It has to be only versus? Can't you work together," the Bench asked.

'Reduce garbage'

"We don't want any mortality in Delhi due to vector-borne diseases. If not for our intervention, you (government and civic bodies) were happy doing nothing," the Bench said.

"You need to look at re-



The High Court has sought a report on measures taken to curb vector-borne diseases in the Capital. **FILE PHOTO**

ducing garbage, instead of more sites for landfills. Else, soon Delhi will move out and only the landfills will remain," it added.

The court's observations came after the Delhi government presented a news report of five dengue cases in the Capital in January.

The court noted that the Delhi government was yet to publicise or put up on its website the waste management by-laws, which were framed on the court's direction and notified recently.

It sought a report from the government and the civ-

ic agencies on the steps taken to publicise and implement the by-laws as well as the measures taken in anticipation of a dengue outbreak.

The court had ordered framing of the draft by-laws after environmental experts, including Sunita Narain, Almitra Patel and M.C. Mehta, claimed that a major challenge in solid waste management was the lack of such provisions.

The court was hearing two petitions seeking directions to the authorities for steps to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases.

Plea for relief from hospital rejected

Petitioner had claimed his wife died due to medical negligence

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A consumer disputes redressal forum in Delhi, on January 24, dismissed a plea seeking ₹10 lakh from Sant Parmanand Hospital, citing lack of evidence.

The complainant had alleged that his wife had lost her life due to medical negligence of the hospital.

Complainant A.K. Gautam had alleged that his wife Laxmi Gautam met with an untimely death after the hospital refused to admit her citing no vacancy in the ICU.

Further, it was alleged that the "complainant got the tests done as per the advice of the treating doctor and submitted the reports to him, but the doctor did not provide proper treatment".

The complainant also alleged that a considerable amount of time was wasted in getting the tests done and by the time the patient was taken to another government hospital, she expired.

Denies charges

However, denying the charges levelled against it, the

hospital contended that the patient was attended to and that the complaint was a "frivolous one".

Dismissing the complaint, the consumer disputes redressal forum said: "Not an iota of evidence has been filed on record by the complainant to show that despite having a bed in the Intensive Care Unit at that particular time, she was refused admission by the hospital. As such, the allegation of the complainant that the hospital was deficient in providing services is not tenable."

Plea challenges prohibition on practice by LLM students

High Court has agreed to look into the petition filed by a DU student challenging a 2015 Ordinance

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has agreed to look into a plea challenging the prohibition on legal practice or undertaking employment by students pursuing LLM courses in Delhi University.

A Bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Chandrer Shekhar has sought response from the university on a plea by a student, Kumar Piyush Pushkar, challenging a 2015 Ordinance.

Advocates Anirudh Bakhrui and Shadman Ahmed

Siddiqui contended that Clause 8 of the Ordinance brought out by the university prohibits students from "engaging in any trade, business or profession".

This, they said, has not only financially crippled the students pursuing LLM course, but has also ensured that the two-year programme is open only to those students who have financial support.

Mr. Pushkar had claimed that LLM students across the country are permitted to practice law by the Bar



The HC has sought a reply from the university.

Council of India.

No-job undertaking

Apart from the Ordinance, Mr. Pushkar has also chal-

lenged a September 2017 notification which mandates students enrolling in LLM course to give an undertaking that they will not engage in any kind of practice or employment.

Mr. Pushkar had successfully cleared the 2017 entrance examinations for the two-year LLM course.

After completing other formalities, the candidates were asked to give the undertaking in order to secure the admission.

"The prohibition imposed upon the students

denying them the right to put themselves through a Masters course in their ambitions of pursuing higher education is a palpable infringement of the inherent right granted in the Constitution," the petition said.

He said that the restriction imposed was "exploitative" as students who needed to support themselves could not even work for an hour or so after college.

Mr. Pushkar said this not only caused financial hardship but also denied legal exposure to the students.

FILM REVIEWS

Elegance meets claustrophobia

Paul Thomas Anderson and Daniel Day-Lewis collaborate once again to narrate a haunting and stylish tale



Act ace: In *Phantom Thread*, neither the maker nor the actor are willing to give an easy access into the protagonist's mind **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

KENNITH ROSARIO

When you live alone for a long time and go through the same routine on a daily basis, your idiosyncrasies lose its peculiarity. They become, what you'd imagine, ordinary traits. Reynolds Woodcock (Daniel Day-Lewis) by no means lives alone, but he is lonesome in the world he has stitched for himself as a dressmaker - a world he obsessively controls. A young waitress, Alma (Vicky Krieps), who exudes the insecurity of youth, falls for the surety of age that Woodcock brings. But little does she know what she is signing up for. On their first date he wipes the lipstick off of her face. "I'd like to see who I'm talking to," he says. At first glance it could be a romantic gesture, but it's only the first sign of Woodcock's fussiness.

The dressmaker resents change, be it in his woman or his breakfast. The latter is perhaps more dear to him. "I

can't begin my day with a confrontation," he says, wryly, when Alma tries to have a conversation over breakfast. As she grows in confidence, both as his lover and his muse, she showcases more of herself, which means eating breakfast as noisily as a person possibly can. He resents that, and asks her to leave, she obliges. Another day, she brings him tea while he is working, without his permission. He loathes it, and asks her to leave. Alma does, yet again. "The tea is leaving but the interruption is staying here with me," he says menacingly.

There are various instances like these that director Paul Thomas Anderson throws at the audience as breadcrumbs to work towards deciphering Woodcock's character. This Gothic "love story", if you will, is Anderson's eighth feature outing and second collaboration with Day-Lewis after *There Will Be Blood* (2007). Both Anderson and Day-Lewis are known

Phantom Thread

DIRECTOR: Paul Thomas Anderson
CAST: Daniel Day-Lewis, Vicky Krieps, Lesley Manville, Richard Graham, Camilla Rutherford, Harriet Sansom Harris
STORY LINE: A young waitress deals with the rigidity and eccentricity of the dressmaker she falls in love with.

for their restraint and building up of emotions. In *Phantom Thread*, neither the maker nor the actor are willing to give an easy access into the protagonist's mind. Woodcock is complex, difficult and dapper (of course, it's Day-Lewis), but that's just on the surface. As the film progresses, his character, aided by the veteran actor's stupendous performance, renders a feeling of intense claustrophobia, even if you don't wish to identify with Alma. Although, Krieps with her self-assured presence makes it difficult not to.

For a film about a dressmaker,

Phantom Thread deals with many things - obsession, the love for work and perfection, loneliness, insecurities, love, longing and even food - but not clothing. Anderson uses the '50s Britain and high fashion as a compelling backdrop to tell a haunting and stylish tale, full of confrontations and scathing one liners ("I'm admiring my own gallantry for eating the asparagus the way you prepared it"). The film is enhanced by non-stop orchestral pieces, piano and violin melodies, which appropriately steer your reaction. The performances by Krieps and Lesley Manville (as Cyril, Woodcock's sister) are beautifully nuanced, and matches up to Day-Lewis' expert hold over acting.

As Anderson's film reaches its climax, the ending could be argued to be too literal or too poetic. But undisputedly one, where you hope that Day-Lewis' declaration of *Phantom Thread* being his last film, is only figurative.

Anatomy of an assassination

The investigation and murder trial of a chief minister is boring, dull and needlessly complicated



Crime story: Dobriyal is all fire in a few emotional scenes **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

NAMRATA JOSHI

Kuldip Patwal: I Didn't Do It!

DIRECTOR: Remy Kohli
CAST: Deepak Dobriyal, Raima Sen, Gulshan Devaiah, Pravin Dabas
STORYLINE: A bystander at a political rally gets arrested for the murder of the chief minister in a public rally. He pleads not guilty. But did he really do it?

The film starts off on September 18, 2013, with the assassination of the young chief minister of the fictional state of Bharatsar, Varun Chadha (Pravin Dabas) physically cast in the mould of the late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. We are then made to go back in time to 15 minutes before the crime. Then come back to the present to go back 14 years, then come back again to again go back 12 years. This constant back and forth in time renders things pointlessly complicated, rather being than the cool narrative device that the film's UK-based director may have intended it to be. A straight and simple story is told by Remy Kohli in a jumbled up, non-linear manner, inspired as he seems by the international cinema. Unfortunately, Kohli has clearly been unable to assimilate in his head as it just doesn't reflect in his work.

Kuldip Patwal (Deepak Dobriyal) is a young educated man in need of a good job. He does well in the examination for the job of patwari but the position gets claimed by another on reservation quota. He has a boozard mother back at home (*Vicky Donor* anyone) and a good for nothing auto driver dad. He turns a hawker, selling vegetables on the streets till a policy introduced by the Chief Minister renders him jobless. He sells the family jewellery to start a grocery store, but his designer poverty and struggles are ongoing. The CM unwittingly be-

comes responsible for the death of his newborn twins as well. The question then arises, did he then shoot down the CM in a fit of rage?

If a half-baked script, sketchy situations and vague characters were not enough, the film is also marked by clutter and disarray in the telling. There's a lot of issue-pandering as well, be it about caste, reservation, unemployment, corruption or medical and health facilities. All of which merely scratch the surface. None of it adds up to anything compelling. Dobriyal is all fire in a few emotional, dramatic scenes but is by and large on automated mode. All the other actors around him are persistently over the top. It's Gulshan Devaiah then who tries to inject some amount life to the proceedings as the eccentric, principled lawyer Praduman Shahpuri but his fake moustache comes in the way. Much ado has been made about the climax. The so-called twist in the tale and the conspiracy theory riding on it, however, are eminently lame.

IN BRIEF



Celebrating Indian crafts

National Institute of Fashion Technology's much talked about "International Conference: 'Rediscovering Culture: Transforming Fashion'", took off with a grand fashion show at Crafts Museum in Pragati Maidan in Delhi recently. Organised in association with the Fashion Design Council of India, the ramp show saw some of the experienced as well as emerging ones like Manish Arora, Rajesh Pratap Singh, Anavila Misra, Suket Dhir, Sanjay Garg, Sunita Shanker, Swati Kalsi, Payal Pratap and Pratima Pandey showcasing how textiles and modern designs can go hand in hand. Speaking on the occasion, Sarada Muraaleedharan, Director General, NIFT said: "NIFT has been working with both ends of the fashion spectrum - the legacy of centuries of honed knowledge on crafts and textiles on the one hand and modern design consciousness and global trends on the other."

Burger treat

A special drive to feed burgers to underprivileged children was conducted at Shiv Mandir, Mahavir Enclave, in Delhi by Barcelos India, a South African casual dining restaurant chain, with the support of New Delhi Children's Hospital & Research Centre. The event also kick-started a free health camp and other fun activities. Rohit Malhotra-Business Head India Operations Barcelos India said, "We are into food industry and it's our privilege and responsibility to address the issue of hunger where millions of children go days without a proper meal."

'We killed the concept of supermodels'

In a candid conversation, ace fashion photographer Atul Kasbekar unravels the inside story of modelling business

ANUJ KUMAR

"I have paid my dues long enough to become a guru," grins Atul Kasbekar as one catches up with the ace fashion photographer just after the press conference of Colors Infinity's new show *Top Model India*, where Kasbekar is one of the judges. Once upon a time modelling was a highly aspirational career but over the years its appeal has diminished among youngsters. "Somewhere along the line, we ended up killing the supermodel," says Kasbekar over a telephonic conversation. "There was an era in the beginning of my career when there were models - male and female - who were genuine supermodels on their own accord. Models like Sheetal Mallar, Mehr Jessie, Arjun Rampal and Rahul Dev were making a very good living just as models. They were paid top dollar equivalents. Every advanced advertising market has its separate, television, film and modelling stars. Cindy Crawford, I don't think, ever played a role in a movie, but she made a fortune out of modelling. Here, somehow inexplicably, we killed the supermodel concept because of a variety of reasons. Young models look at it only as a stepping stone for a career in films. I would be very happy to be part of a process that can bring the concept back."

Poached by Bollywood

Indeed. Deepika Padukone could have easily been a supermodel for a decade had she not been poached by the film industry. "It proved to be beneficial for the film industry as well as her bank balance. There is no nepotism involved in her case and she has put in the hard yards. It is all about economics. I worked with a top male model for a shoot in 1996. At that time he was getting paid seven lakh rupees a year. For the same suiting client, today, a top model is getting one lakh a day, and they shoot no more than three to four days a year. So there is no motivation to remain only a model," reasons Kasbekar who also runs a celebrity management



Meet the mentor: Atul Kasbekar says young models look at the profession as a stepping stone for a career in films

company.

Unlike film industry where the economics is skewed in favour of male actors, Kasbekar says, female models are paid more than male models. "Nevertheless, their remuneration has also remained static if it has not gone down over the years." No wonder, he adds, some of the models who are in their 40s, could be seen walking the ramp.

Another reason for the declining interest is the entry of foreign models from East European countries, whom Kasbekar calls "fash-

ion gypsies" in India's fashion scene. "They come for a far lesser amount. It is again just a function of economics. Recently, I shot for a client in Mauritius and somebody asked me to stay for one extra day and complete his work as well. Now I am not that concerned about the rights and long term usage of this 'extra' work. Similarly, when these model take a circuit - it could be from Dubai to Bangkok via Cape Town and Mumbai - India is a just a stop over for them for three-four months where they make money and move on."

As for fashion designers showing interest in using Bollywood stars as showstoppers, Kasbekar says media also has role to play in creating a perception. "Some time back, we had a photography exhibition which showcased personal works of India's famous photographers. Called Exhibit A, it was about their love for photography and had nothing to do with their commercial work. When we invited the media to cover, the first question that was asked was who was coming. I said how did it matter. The sense we got was that our

media coverage would be thin if we didn't call a star."

Kasbekar, however, doesn't feel that today's generation consider modelling as a shallow vocation. "I don't like to be judgemental just because somebody is good looking. Becoming an underwear model is not rocket science but then he is not expected to create rockets. It is just that somebody is trying to better his or her genes," argues Kasbekar, known for shooting Kingfisher calendars. Quality might have come down, but, Kasbekar says, the number of aspirants has not. "This year we needed four models and we had about 45 applicants. It is a big number considering for a swim suit model you don't just need to be thin; you got to have a strong athletic body and a certain height."

Kasbekar underlines good looking doesn't necessarily mean photogenic and this "X factor", which makes a supermodel, can't be described in words. "It is only something that you discover when out of 100 models on the ramp, one becomes the darling of the media."

Changing parameters

Having co-produced content-driven films like *Neerja* and *Tumhari Sullu*, Kasbekar is very much part of the film industry as well. Perhaps, the acting parameters have changed. Now the word wooden is hardly used for model-turned-actors. It is only that some actors are meant for providing us fitness goals rather than emotional uplift. "There was a certain definition of a good male body earlier which focussed on large biceps. Nobody bothered about six packs. Today, if you throw a stone in Lohandwala, you will hit a six-pack. The general standard of what is called a good body has changed. The point is requirement of a good body is not a substitute to acting skills. Globally, Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt don't rely only on their muscles. We know things get increasingly tough for those who only have a good body."

Between the lines
On the show

What is really nice about this hunt is that both male and female models can participate and there will be only one winner. We don't want anybody to bring world peace or become a Mother Teresa! It is basically about how well you show up in your photographs and as a model on the ramp.

On the biases

I don't think they have gone away completely but on my part, in my entire career, I made it a point not to shoot for fairness creams and I have routinely promoted duskier models.

On his next film

It is called *Cheat India*. It is co-production with Emraan Hashmi and T-Series. It is about scams in the education system. There are many experts in the rom-com business; I want to take a different path.

With smartphones getting smarter and Instagram always hungry for more, it seems we won't get to see another Kasbekar. "The process has indeed become more democratic and accessible. On a given day my heart surgeon or my lawyer can make a great photo and I cannot fight a case in the Supreme Court or hold a scalpel. But I have always believed that no typewriter can write a novel by itself. Photography is a function of what you have between your ears, how much you have travelled, what culture you have imbibed. A lot of people take snaps, a word that irritates me no end, some make photos and only a very few create images. So if you want to be a professional, you should be able to create images on a consistent basis."

Kasbekar doesn't have a moral issue with using technology to correct flaws. "I am a great believer in less is more but I do use Photoshop. There is a distinct line between photojournalism and advertising. If it is overly done, any consumer, including my mother who is well into her 70s, will figure it out," signs off Kasbekar.

Style and substance

As Varq celebrates ten years of its existence, Chef Arun Sundararaj displays how a healthy meal can also be high on taste

MADHUR TANKHA

As the culinary landscape is changing at a fast pace, it becomes imperative for iconic restaurants, which represent food and heritage of the city, to stand out. Varq, the landmark restaurant at The Taj Mahal Hotel, which is the go to place for gourmets who want to try the latest in Indian cuisine, is now bracing for a change. Its culinary journey which started from Haveli led to the transformation of how Indian food is prepared, presented and perceived. One of the first to hone the concept of pre-plated Indian food, Varq has contributed in reinvention of modern Indian gourmet dining.

Celebrating ten years of its existence, it wants to attract new age patrons, who want a nice blend of taste and health in their food.

At the media table, the eight-course lunch had an array of innovative offerings. And as always, taste of the food one has grown up eating came back to haunt. For

Arun Sundararaj, Executive Chef, who grew up eating authentic Malayali cuisine in Kerala, it is an inspiration to do better each time he steps into the kitchen. Some of his dishes, including the whole-some North Indian tandoori dishes or even delectable Japanese ones have been tweaked to lend a Southern flavour with its aromatic spices.

Therefore, it came as no surprise that the first dish of the meal was created keeping the international traveller



It is very important to cook the duck on slow fire for three hours so as to soften the meat

ARUN SUNDARARAJ

in mind. In appearance, Rava upma sushi looked similar to the Japanese raw fish served at the adjoining Wasabi by Morimoto.

Sushi with a twist

But the taste was dissimilar as the chef had given an interesting twist to it. It had varied flavours of curry leaves, spices and batter used in upma. It was whole-some as the rice was substituted by wheat. Semolina wheat, another healthier option, was also used.

Describing Rava upma sushi as a distinct dish, Sundararaj said: "As we all know upma is a staple food in Southern part of India and is usually consumed for breakfast, here I wanted to think of something more innovative. Hence it took the presentation and form of a sushi. For taste, it has flavours of pickle called gongura or sorrel leaf of Andhra Pradesh."

The food was prepared keeping in mind the health conscious guest by using different varieties of grains like millets, barley, black rice,



Keeping it light: Duck confit at Varq

buck wheat and raagi flour. Healthier cooking techniques like dehydrating spices, vegetables and fruits were used.

Every dish re-emphasised that appearances are deceptive. Drumstick soup was surely an appetiser; it looked like regular coffee except that it was prepared by cooking drumstick leaves and yellow lentils together with pepper corn and herbs like coriander root and curry leaves.

Another innovation came in the form of Murg methi malai soufflé. It was creamy chicken at its yummiest best. It was an amalgamation of avian meat and fennegreek, in which the taste of chicken was exceptional even though one had an apprehension of

flavour of methi overpowering that of meat. Here, chicken was sobered down in the sense that it did not have robustness of the Mughlai variant but it was juicier, tender and was made with less chillies. It was indeed difficult to guess which region it originated from.

Next came Achari haldi fish tikka; it certainly was for those with refined palette. Unlike its popular image, it was light on spices and the best part was the touch and go of organic turmeric pickle which made it all the more delectable.

For me dish of the day was the duck confit, which had the right ingredients. As duck has taste of its own; there was no generous use of spices. And the portions

were tender and just right for the main course. It was inspired by the cooking methodology of Syrian Christians of Kerala. It had the flavour of distinct flavour of cinnamon, cardamom, black pepper, cloves and curry leaves.

Explaining the process, Chef Sundararaj said: "Firstly, the spices are boiled and then powdered, marinated with duck using coconut oil, ghee, cooking oil, ginger, green chilli. Kept overnight, they are cooked with shallots, curry leaves and powdered spices. It is very important to cook the duck on slow fire for three hours so as to soften the meat."

The meal underlined that healthier options can go hand in hand with rich textures of Indian delicacies.

SHORT TAKES

Taking the plunge

Nicolas Cage is hoping Hollywood bosses will give him the sinking feeling he desires, by handing him his dream role. The 54-year-old *Leaving Las Vegas* actor wants the chance to play Captain Nemo in a new big-screen adaptation of Jules Verne's classic novel *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

"It would be my dream role, because I think it would be beautifully organic and I like the idea of not having to act," says Cage.

"I've often said that my first love was the ocean. Even before I loved my parents, I loved the ocean. Whenever I was at the sea or at the beach and looked at water, I was transported.

I've always had a deep connection with marine life



and the ocean. By virtue of that fact, I've always wanted to play Captain Nemo in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. I know that I would embody that character in a way that would resonate with myself and probably for others."

Action entertainer

Yash Raj Films has announced that its next action entertainer starring Hrithik Roshan, Tiger Shroff and Vaani Kapoor will release on October 2, 2019! Hrithik plays Tiger's guru in this slick, face-off thriller that is expected to be a visual spectacle. The film is set to go on floors this August and shooting will wrap by the end of February 2019. Hrithik and Tiger are going to share screen space for the first time in this Siddharth Anand directorial. While Hrithik is teaming with YRF after "Dhoom 2", for Tiger it is the first YRF film.



5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



EXHIBITION

Dicky Singh

OddBird Theatre is holding the first exhibition of wildlife photography by conservationist Dicky Singh. Sponsored by the Wildlife Conservation Trust the photographs are playfully displayed in the unusual setting of the theatre. Enjoy the drama as the narratives reveal themselves.
VENUE: A 68, Okhla Industrial Area
TIME: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



THEATRE

Woyzeck

Black Box Okhla will stage "Woyzeck", an adaptation of Georg Büchner's German classic. Directed by Nikhil Mehta, it is a pragmatic tale of fidelity and the demons that guide one towards envy and immortality. The play features Piyush Kumar, Farhad Colabavala and others.
VENUE: A 68, Okhla Industrial Area
TIME: 8.30 p.m. onwards



PHOTOGRAPHY

Odyssey

Inauguration of exhibition comprising photographers Abhishek Kumar, Anurag Jha, Manideep Paul, Maria Tirkey, Megha Kohli, Shivangini Yeashu Yuvraj, Shubhra Brakh and Yeashu Yuvraj who have translated their contrastive experiences in their images.
VENUE: AIFACS, 1 Rafi Marg
TIME: 4: 30 p.m.



WALK

A Walk Through Mehrauli Archaeological Park

Sohail Hashmi, Delhi based writer, filmmaker, will lead the walk in the nondescript monuments that remain obscured in the shadows of the busy city. The Mehrauli walk will start from the main gate of Qutub Minar, and end at the Mausoleum of Quli Khan, younger brother of Adham Khan.
VENUE: Ticket Counter, Qutub Minar
TIME: 7.45 a.m.



PLAY

Short Circuit

Atelier Repertory Company will stage at Akshara Theatre a Hinglish comedy play "Short Circuit" by Kuljeet Singh. The play is about Anirban and his girl friend Simar at Vasant Kunj who are preparing to welcome guests: Simar's father who will approve Anirban for their marriage and Hussain, who will buy Anirban's artwork.
VENUE: Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi
TIME: 7 p.m.



Be it her Benarasi silk pantsuit or the Ekaya wedding dresses at Paris Couture Week, Palak Shah is confident about changing how the world perceives Indian handlooms

Chikankari in a French twist

ROSELLA STEPHEN

You can count on the wedding dress to create a stir at every Couture Fashion Week in Paris. Last month's mighty parade of extravagant creations was no different, with the white gown stepping out as a tuxedo from Chanel or as Parisian fashion house On Aura Tout Vu's risqué experiment with a see-through skirt (earning it the 'naked wedding dress' label on social media). Which is why Palak Shah of Ekaya was smart to say 'yes' when Fédération Française de la Création Couture Sur Mesure came calling with a wedding proposition.

15 and counting
This federation of 'custom made' in Paris has an annual show that partners its members with the finest weavers from across the world. With India being in focus in 2018, they approached Ekaya. The result? Project Cousu d'Or – Magical Weaving where wedding dresses by 15 de-

I now see myself working with texture and not necessarily heavy work. So many people have talked about presenting Indian textiles with a Western sensibility and have not delivered

PALAK SHAH, CEO, EKAYA



signers from Germany, Italy, America and France use 18 different Indian fabrics from Ekaya, in ivory and gold. "I faced the usual advice before I came here: that Indian colours are too bright and the motifs too strong for the West," begins Palak, speaking from Paris the morning after the launch party. "We have self-imposed limitations and it is only when you step out that you realise anything is possible. So what if the West is used to fabric of 55-inch width as opposed to India's 45-inch? We can work around this."

Breaking the rules
At 26, this CEO with a business management degree from King's College in London, and an MBA at Babson, Boston, is not going to let anything, or anyone, hold her back. In 2012, she joined her father Bharat Shah to give their 70-year-old textile family business in Varanasi a Delhi address with Ekaya. Then came unconven-

Throwback moment

At the exhibition, a white *chikankari* dress by Letz-Martin (known to collaborate with Chanel and Vera Wang) with high detail and clever pattern cutting, has been getting good reviews. It takes you back to *Vogue India*'s Project Renaissance, when the magazine got luxury fashion brands to experiment with Indian textiles: Alberta Ferretti's elegant gown in *kanjeevaram* and Missoni's *chikan* dress. That was back in 2012, at around the time Ekaya launched.

tional sari collections, courtesy collaborations with designers Abraham & Thakore, Playclan (think Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancers on bright Benarasi silks), Parsi embroidery by Ashdeen Lilaowalia (birds of paradise and peonies in a Parsi-Benarasi narrative), Frou Frou, and last December, with couturier JJ Valaya for his Aliko project.



Fabric feast: (clockwise from left) the Thaan store in Delhi, Palak Shah, the brand's unusual weaves and dress by Letz-Martin using *chikankari* fabric from Ekaya



tee that all 'experiments' will be sold. This is not possible when designers go to them and ask for 10 metres of customised fabric," adds Palak, who has since encouraged metallic accents and geometric patterns on silks and cotton, the snakeskin effect, and motifs inspired by ancient tiles. "I'm a quick worker, like my father. I was back from Boston in May and Thaan was ready in August. There is never a dull moment," she confirms.

No stops, please

Comfortable in saris at most events – "I like the conventional drape" – she made a statement with her Benarasi pantsuit when launching Thaan. She has since talked about transforming Indian fabrics into trench coats and dresses. Over the phone from Paris, she says hobnobbing with fashion editors, bloggers, make-up and jewellery CEOs at the launch party the previous night, has got her thinking. "Why not bags, or even hats with Indian fabrics, I wonder. My time in France this time has been all about minimalism. I now see myself working with texture and not necessarily heavy work. So many people have talked about presenting Indian textiles with a Western sensibility and have not delivered," she says, speaking rapidly and bluntly. She will return to India next week to begin other campaigns for Ekaya, and there is something for men too. I wonder how her team keeps up. "They are all young. The average age is 29, from manager to sales executive!"

Cousu d'Or is at Sofitel Paris Le Faubourg till February 25.

Byte trail

Your guide to all things new on the World Wide Web



Lakme Fashion Week
Twitter will be livestreaming select sessions from the ongoing Lakme Fashion Week Summer/Resort 2018 in

Mumbai.

Follow @LakmeFashionWk to catch Payal Singhal's show today at 5 pm and Shyamal & Bhumiika tomorrow at 3.30 pm.



Picture This for The Planet
Sony Pictures and the United Nations Foundation have announced a short-film competition for emerging filmmakers, everyday

storytellers and changemakers worldwide, to showcase the positive future they see for our planet. Visit sonypicturethis.com for details.



Soft Shells
Remember the scene in *Friends* where Joey wears all of Chandler's clothes?

Photographer Libby Oliver tackles consumerism-related questions with a similar photo project, where her subjects wear everything they own, and all that's left to be seen are some body parts sticking out. Follow her on Instagram @chewonthisart.



HomePod
Apple's answer to Amazon Echo hits the market in USA, Australia and the UK on February 9. The \$349 gadget, which is controlled by virtual personal assistant Siri, will let users stream music, add events to their calendars, control smart home devices and hear text messages sent to their iPhones.



Gnoosic
Confused by all the new names in music and wondering whom to listen to? Gnoosic.com can help: enter three artistes you like, and the interface will come up with one name you'll probably also dig. For example, Bruno Mars, SZA and Bebe Rexha suggests bands like Imagine Dragons and The Script.

ALL ABOUT THE BAES

BuzzFeed's chief copy editor, Emmy Favilla, on how language evolves every day and why it's ok to skip some punctuations

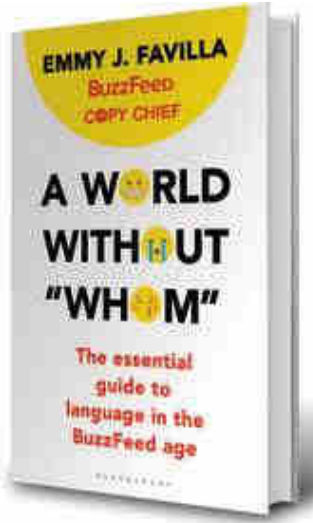
APOORVA SRIPATHI

At a time when grammar gurus are likened to linguistically-correct Nazis, BuzzFeed's chief copy editor Emmy Favilla has come out with a book that throws caution to the wind. Depending on which side of the grammar bed you wake up on, *A World Without Whom* will either incense you or have you fervently nodding in agreement.

Favilla might not be a household name, but the style she came up with is. BuzzFeed was one of the firsts, if not the first, to lowercase internet in 2012 (the Associated Press Stylebook came around only in 2016). And in 2014, when BuzzFeed published the internal style guide she authored, Favilla thought it was unnecessary, although it was written for the internet age, tackling fun (when to use '?!') and serious subject matter (it has a detailed subsection on how to write about LGBT and marginalised communities). But soon, a host of media outlets like NPR wanted to interview her, and the University of Illinois listed the guide as recommended reading for their journalism course.

A light-hearted take on communicating in the digital age, *A World Without Whom* tells the story behind this handbook, gives us a peek into how the millennial media company communicates online and why Favilla, an unlikely grammar guru, thinks it's important to rank punctuation marks in a world where social media rules language.

How did *A World Without Whom*



come about?

● I hadn't come across a book that explored language issues specific to the digital age. Given my role as global copy chief, I felt I was in a good position to write something that discussed grammar guidelines that feel antiquated, mindful language and using appropriate words when writing about certain demographics. Also, many writers tend to think that there are always hard-and-fast rules regarding grammar and language, and that simply isn't the case. I wanted to explore why that idea isn't something that should feel overwhelming, but instead should feel freeing.

Wait, can we still use 'whom'?

● You can say whom if you enjoy using

the word and use it correctly. But no one is going to do a double-take if you use "who" in the objective case (ie, where "whom" is technically the correct option). In casual speech, I think it's safe to say that most people use "who" more often than "whom", as the latter comes off as pretentious or overly formal in certain contexts. It's an organic shift that we can't undo, so we need to roll with it!

What's the idea behind ranking punctuation marks?

● I originally wrote that list for BuzzFeed back in 2014. It was inspired by casual conversations within my team about which punctuation marks were better than others. The exclamation mark gets bonus points for being emotive, plus it's the only mark you can use, aside from the question mark, to express a higher magnitude of emotion simply by using more of them.

Language is evolving at a constant pace, but how does one keep up?

● Dictionaries and old-standby style guides are, and will continue to be, essential resources for journalists and writers. The important thing is to realise that they are not the gatekeepers of language, ruling over

EMMY EXPLAINS 'Ha' is snarky, 'haha' is natural and 'hahahahaha' is a little over the top. Why?

I don't make the e-laughter rules, but I think that those categorisations are ones that we can all pretty much agree on, no? But hey, if it makes you happy, hahahaha to your heart's content!

Literally?
Totally acceptable in the figurative sense. It often adds humour as it heightens a given sentiment.



A way with words: (left) Emmy Favilla
● TAYLOR MILLER

it with an iron fist. They often can't keep up with the change in real time, so take certain guidelines with a grain of salt, use your intuition and knowledge of how people actually write and talk. Ultimately, you want to speak the language of the reader and write in a way that doesn't seem awkward, distracting, or out of touch.

Why should we care about language and its evolution?

● A language that's alive is always going to evolve. There is no use in holding on to outdated rules that don't reflect present conversation. It's also a supremely cool thing that newer additions to our language, like emojis and the 'quirky tilde' are allowing for more nuanced expression that traditional punctuation marks can't facilitate. Also, as a global society, we're becoming more mindful of inclusive and respectful language, and that's something that may change over time as well. As we've seen, for instance, with Latinx being the more recent gender-neutral form of its predecessor Latino.

Why is punctuation serious business when it comes to texting?

● Thanks to the line break, and the fact that we can send our messages piecemeal, one sentence or one word at a time, periods no longer play an essential role in texts and direct messages. We don't need them to differentiate one sentence from the next. As a result, putting in the extra effort to add a period at the end of a sentence you've texted has the potential to come across as aggressive or very serious, even if that wasn't the intention. Yes, millennials are killing the period, and it's going to be okay.